Responding to
Christian Missionaries Tactics

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(pbuh): peace be upon him
(pbut): peace be upon them

(The latter two phrases are said by all pious Muslims after mentioning the name of a prophet. They will be assumed throughout this booklet).

Christian Missionaries Sweeping the Islamic World

By Shiekh Salman Al-Odeh

Source : http://www.islamworld.net/tanseer.htm

The Islamic world is the land that is full of milk and honey, the way "Peter the Monk" described it when he called for the European Crusades, today the Islamic world floods with Oil too, which is the most important one because the western civilization and economy is based on the consumption of this oil, of which 70% is in the Islamic world.

Christian missionaries are now using new methods in the Islamic world, because the old methods did not prove as effective as the Christian missionaries thought they were. Some of these new ways are :-

1) They started using Islamic names, for examples one of their radio stations that has a person that is responsible for answering the questions of the listeners is called "Shiekh Abd-Allah", his program is called "Allahu Akbar", other radio stations are called "Sawt Al-haq", "Noor A'la Noor". They can use different names but they use these only to confuse Muslims with their misguided preaching.

2) Building churches that look similar to Mosques : Muslims were turned off from entering churches because they looked different, that also made them feel very uncomfortable with them. They also changed the internal structure of the church to look similar to a Mosque, the people sit on the floor and in lines. They have circles for teaching and that sort of stuff. They started using a new way for reciting the bible that is similar to the Tarteel of Qur'an. They also try to compare Christ in Islam to Christ in "Christianity".

3) Publishing and distributing misguiding books that talk about the similarities between Islam and Christian faith. They, for example, quote the verse that refers to prophet Jesus (PUH) "Peace Upon Him" as a

prophet, a word and a spirit. They say that is originally the same trinity! Of course this is a false interpretation, a lie. Allah said he blew in Adam of his own spirit, Allah gave his word to prophets Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and Muhammad (PBUT) "Peace and Blessings of Allah Upon Them" and not only to prophet Jesus. The missionaries base this whole theory on the fact that there are three nouns, i.e just because of the number. One of their other arguments that they say that "In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most merciful" means three gods!! not one! that is a worst lie than the one before, they ignore that Allah has 99 names that we know, and many more that Allah promised to tell his prophet at the day of judgment.

4) They started a new way, not to tell Muslims things as they are, for example not to tell them that Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of Allah, since Jesus himself didn't use that expression, so they use other words like "the spirit of Allah" since it is closer to the understanding of a Muslim. They also use titles that are common between the two religions such as "Assalah", "Assawm", which include Christian propaganda but a title that is used to hunt Muslim readers.

5) The use of Islamic expressions such as "Bismilalhi Al-Rahmani Al-Raheem", "Jesus Alaihi assalam", "subhanah Allah", "Allah tabarak wa ta'ala" ... calling their churches "Boyoot Allah" (houses of God). They sometimes even claim to accept Islam as a religion from God, but they say that Christianity was not canceled by Islam!

6-It is clear that the missionaries are selling these kind of images for the sole purpose of duping Muslims from non-Arabic speaking background. These Biblical images have also clearly been purposely portrayed with the style of calligraphy to mirror that of the usual Qur'ânic calligraphy familiar to these Muslims who will hence find it difficult to distinguish the two. One only wonders whether such dubious methods are "inspired" from the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity, or from the unholy Devil himself!



The translation of this verse is:

> Come to me all you who labour and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is the light.
>
> the Arabic Bible verse of Matthew 5: 44-45

6) Making concessions to win Muslims : for examples making Qudas (Christian ceremony) on Fridays not on Sundays to confuse Muslims.

7) Accepting the principle of polygamy. A funny thing to mention, In England, there was a conference in 1409 AD for priests and a big discussion took place about polygamy, many of them totally rejected that issue and said that this is one thing they use against Islam, but they faced the problem that if they didn't allow polygamy they will lose their

campaigns in Africa, after realizing that, they allowed it. There are catholic priest in Africa with 40 wives or more.

8) They say that many Muslims have changed to Christianity and they publish books and cassettes about that. For example the book "Why I become a Christian?" written by "Sultan Muhammad Paul", a weird mix of Christian and Muslim names, they claim in this book that this person was a Muslim from Afghanistan who was the son of a scholar and went to Mecca to do Hajj, asked Allah for one thing which was to give him the true guidance, then the book says they he accepted Christianity, the rest of the book is attacks on Islam that appear to be written by someone who has done a whole lot of research and is very deep into Islamic issues. It is very obvious that this book is false and forged, this is a way that is used quite a lot by Christian missionaries who claim that Muslims (go to Hajj and ask for true guidance and accept their sect ..).

9) Taking the children from their parents and raising them according to their belief. For example in England they started special Hotels for children where they stay there with no connection with their parents, the workers there speak many languages, funny how most of them are Muslim spoken languages (eg Arabic and Urdu). Another example during the Bosnian war the children who were taken from Bosnia to Italy and France they were raised according to Christians believes, those children they know nothing about their original Islamic religion. Even if these children would discover what happened to them they would still have doubts from what was taught to them.

10) The use of Natural disasters : Such as wars, earthquakes floods, ... etc, The need for food, shelter, medicine, education and clothes are one of the reasons that Muslims may accept Christianity. Muslims had to choose either take **"Food + Christianity"**, or stay a Muslim, but a "Hungry Muslim". It is also sad that the aids that Muslims send were distributed by Christians Agencies these aids were sent by Muslims to their brothers and sisters in Bosnia, Chechnya, Indonesia, Somalia, Sudan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Iraq. Muslims' funds and resources are used to spread the Christian religion and to spread hatred of one Muslim towards the other ("The Cross comes with food for you, your Muslim brothers forgot you").

11) Making conditions easy for new converts from Islam to Christianity: These converts are treated by other Muslims as a traitor and something shameful, and that is the truth. They also saw that new converts feel left and abandoned, they also do not find full satisfaction with Christianity. A book called (The Christians missionary among Muslims). This book was printed in Lagos in Nigeria and was given to all the missionaries in that area, this book explains how the missionary can get the best results of his preaching. It says: "the Christian missionary must offer a great love for new converts, as well as regular Muslims, be nice to them. Learn about Islam not only to destroy Muslims belief, but also to understand the similarities between Islam and Christianity so that YOU START WITH THESE POINTS. Talk to them about Jesus, tell them that he loves them and that he is their Saviour. Do not argue the faith, give them a general idea, a fast answer, even try to make it as a joke especially the Trinity, or the idea that Jesus is the son of God .

Many Muslims are effected by this missionary activity, and that many Muslims leave Islam and enter into Christianity! add to that the ones who are slightly affected by Christianity they for example leave Islam without entering into Christianity, or accept some of the Christian belief, or help Christians in their activities, or accept that their relatives become Christians then that is a huge number of people! So the missionary activity is doing what it is supposed to do.

It is wrong to think that every Muslim has an impunity against these missionaries, the missionary efforts are very huge, they are starting to give results even it is was a partial success.. Ignorance is also another reason, there are many Muslims who do not know much about Islam. The ignorant Muslim is called to Christianity in cunning ways and so he enters into it. The fact that there is no Islamic preaching to stand in the face of Christian missionary with similar preaching is also another factor, there is not such activity to teach those ignorant Muslims about their religion and warning them about the danger of the missionaries is a reason that made Christianity acceptable among Muslims.

A Guide to Missionary Tactics

By Mr. Khaled Al-Banaa

Source : http://www.islaam.com/Article.aspx?id=251

This guide is intended to improve awareness about the tactics used by some Christian groups and cults. The tactics of Christian missionaries and missionary groups may vary, but there are some basic guidelines to keep in mind that will be helpful in dealing with them.

HIDDEN AGENDA

Some missionaries attempt to develop a rapport with their subject without divulging their own religious affiliation or intention. Christian missionaries are coached by their superiors to avoid using words such as "Christ" or "savior" or "baptize". If you are not sure about the religious identity of the stranger who begins talking to you about religion, ask him directly about his beliefs and agenda. Be suspicious of an indirect answer. Remember these people aren't interested in dialogue or trying to improve Anglo-Muslim links but are often in SECURE PAID EMPLOYMENT to Sell Christianity.

CREATING DOUBT

When the Christian missionary talks to a Muslim about religion, they may attempt to elicit as many "I don't know" responses as possible, in order to establish their superiority in matters of religion. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated! Remember, the missionary has studied Islamic beliefs for the sole purpose to "sell Christianity to Muslims". Their hearts are sealed and they are no longer interested in truth. Keep in mind that he is not speaking to you in order to exchange ideas, but rather to create as much doubt in your mind and lead you away from your faith. If you want to learn more about the Qur'an, do so from someone who doesn't have hidden motives. Therefore, feel free to simply end the conversation and walk away. Remember that many of these questions and associations they are trying to sell have been debunked many times by more learned Muslims. If they were interested in dialogue the would

be speaking to respected elders and community leaders exploring common ground improving understanding and faith in the community, but all one sees are the often the same question again to unsuspecting victims. Ask yourself what do they hope to gain ? However, some of you may want to listen to their arguments and then learn the Muslim response, in order to be better prepared for future encounters. One must also remember that many missionaries intentionally go into Muslim countries and Muslims areas, so they train themselves and create the most seductive "Sales Pitch" they can manage. Once they have finished there training in salesmanship they will target unsuspecting Muslims (the lonely, vulnerable and weak) lacking in knowledge. The following pointers should give you a basic idea of what to look for.

DECEPTION

The missionary may tell you that he (or a Christian friend or acquaintance) was once a Muslim, or that he had a solid Muslim education, a traditional Muslim family life, etc. This is almost always a lie, so don't let him fool you. The hidden message that he is attempting to convey is that he came to accept Christianity after knowing and overcoming all of the Muslim objections (Jesus being son of god, Bible being corrupted by man etc.), and therefore, why should you bother to check it out? He may drop certain Islamic phrases or talk about the details of his "traditional" Muslim upbringing, in order to lend more credence to his story. In fact, his "memory" is often the result of careful coaching. The missionary might tell you that he knows the Islamic objections to his arguments, and will then proceed to show how such objectives are ill-founded. Don't expect to hear the real Islamic response from such a source.

GOOD, BAD OR UGLY

Don't be taken in by the "good cop - bad cop" routine. This routine involves a "bad cop" who threatens the subject, and a "good cop" who protects him from the "bad cop". The subject is so grateful to the "good cop", and so worried about losing the good-will of his protector, that he invariably shows his appreciation by telling the "good cop" what he wants to hear. In similar fashion, the "good" Christian talks about how much he

loves and respects Muslims, while denouncing the "bad" Christians who hate and have persecuted Muslims. The naive and ones lacking in knowledge of Christian history and bigotry will feel grateful to the "good cop", and may automatically judge him to be a friend and reliable ally. Watch out for hidden motives behind such "friendship".

WHO BELIEVES IN THE SON OF GOD?

At the outset, the missionary will talk about his belief that Jesus is the messiah. Many Muslims don't find out until later, often after they have joined a Christian friendship group, that their fundamental belief is that Jesus is god. Any talk about "the messiah" or "son of god" is merely a cover for that belief, basic to Christianity . However, since such a concept is repugnant in Islam, this most basic belief of Christianity is glossed over as much as possible when missionaries talk to Muslims.

PROOF or SPOOF?

Don't be impressed by the claim that Christians have 50, or 100, or 300 "proofs" that they are correct in their claims about Jesus. As proof after proof is shown to be meaningless, the missionary will hide behind his numbers, as if to say: "Well, we have so many more proofs, what's the difference if you can disprove some of them". He will attempt to "split the difference" with you: "Well, even if half our proofs prove nothing, we still have another 25 or 50, or 150". Remember, all of their proofs can be shown to be untenable. Keep in mind that a faulty point is not worth 50% of a good point, or 25%, or 10%. It is worthless. The simple mathematics are: 50 x 0 = 0, 100 x 0 = 0.

CIRCULAR REASONING

Very often, the reasoning used by Christian missionaries is circular. That is, the "proof" only points to something is if you believe it in the first place, and therefore is no proof at all.

MISTRANSLATION

Be aware of the problem of mistranslating. A person who is not familiar with Arabic can be lead to accept a mistranslating which puts a Christian "twist" on a verse that never had such a meaning in the original. If you can't check it out yourself, talk

to a reliable person who can. Remember, it is no coincidence that the Muslims of past generations, who were much better versed in the Arabic, never had any serious problems refuting Christian missionary arguments. In addition beware of Christian Translations of the Qur'an, many date from sixteenth to the eighteenth century with the sole intention of to discredit Islam. Please keep in mind ANY translation (interpretation) of the Qur'an will most definitely contain errors In its natural language (**Arabic**), the Qur'an is the direct Word of Allah (God) to mankind through the prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). Any translation of the Qur'an no longer retains that 'official' and perfect status, however it can be tremendously helpful to beginning students wanting to learn more about Islam.

We would strongly encourage those want to learn about Islam to purchase a copy of the Qur'an but with the following conditions: get one with commentary (tafseer) & make sure the tafseer is scholarly (e.g. references to reasons behind a verse, references to hadith and sunnah, etc..). An excellent English translation of the meanings and commentary of the Noble Qur'an is that of Dr. Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali and Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan recently published work by " King Fahd Complex for the printing of the Holy Qur'an – Madinah, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia ".

QUOTING OUT OF CONTEXT

Often a verse will be quoted to you that has been taken entirely out of context. When the entire chapter that contains that verse is read, it becomes clear that it does not corroborate the Missionary.

Conclusion : Selling Timeshare or Christshare?

You may recognize many of the tactics used by some Missionaries in selling there faith as they have similarities to disreputable Timeshare and Double glazing salesman, and this raises some interesting points:

- Why would one propagate faith in such a deceitful and underhanded way, is it because: God will not aid ones seeking the true path? A bad product is difficult to sell unless you dupe someone? If you are genuinely interested in faith why don't you go ask someone with a

sound knowledge and understanding of Islam, instead of targeting the naive, vulnerable and the weak.

- Why do you seek out the naive and weak and then intentionally ask Mischievous questions, when they have been answered many times by learned scholars and by people that you have approached over the years? Surely this does not add to knowledge or understanding.
- Why do you target Muslims Considering the moral depravity often in your own family and neighbour hood and within so called Christians. Is it because Muslims are wealthy in faith? Is it because you have so much hatred for Muslims and you are unable, incapable or tired of other methods.

RIDICULE

There is a very large number of publications by Muslims explaining Islam in plain and simple English. Look in any public library for books on Islam, a large proportion of them will be by orientalists and Christian missionaries, what do you think motivates someone to write a book on a subject one does not believe in and an area that has been already covered by numerous other books? Remember Christian "Translations" of the Qur'an whose sole intention was to discredit Islam.

CRUSADES

Butchered everyone including defenseless women and children or any one else that got in there way. Although it has taken many hundreds of years Crusaders have improved they now only kill some women and RAPE THE REST. The twentieth centuary has seen "Ethnic Cleansing" replace the word Crusade, in 1996 one of the youngest recorded victim of rape in Bosnia was a baby of 4 Months old. Many women and children had two of there fingers severed by the Serbs so that the three remaining fingers would remind them of the Trinity.

A WAY FORWARD

While we as Muslims believe that the entire Qur'an is the word of God and we would like every one to accept it as such, God Himself has given the freedom of religion which we respect. With that in mind, all we hope is that non-Muslims will at least enlighten themselves with an open heart and mind

by knowing what Islam is. We hope that Muslims, Christians and Jews will find ways to work together to bring peace on earth by eradicating immorality, fear, hate, disease, poverty and injustice. Muslims welcome the chance improve dialogue and understanding with all faiths. In addition we do not object to other groups explaining there ideas and faith to whomever expresses an interest, but we do think it is unacceptable that missionaries demean other faiths, use deceitful methods and harass communities with what can be described highly trained and focused door to door salesman.

USE THE PROPER RESOURCES!

Most Muslims spend their time studying Islam trying to find a path to true enlightenment, and therefore may not be familiar with the "curve-ball" approach of missionaries. If you need advice concerning a problem of this sort, get in touch with Muslims scholars and people who are familiar with the missionaries tactics' being used and who know how to deal with them.

Missionary Traps for Muslims

By Mr. Macksood Aftab
Managing Editor of the Islamic Herald, April 1996

http://www.themodernreligion.com/comparative/christ/christ_trap.htm

Part 1: Faith and Works

One of the basic arguments raised by non-Muslims, especially Christians, against Islam concerns the concept of salvation. They say that in Christianity, one is saved by faith, whereas in Islam one must earn their salvation through good deeds. Unfortunately, many Muslims fall into the trap of defending the position imposed on them by these non-Muslims. This then provides the Christians with a basis for their entire Jesus-Father-Crucifixion-Salvation framework. They then go on to argue that salvation is a gift from God that cannot be earned. But if the true Islamic concept is made clear, the Christian has no basis to attack Islam.

Many times, Muslims fail to realize that the Islamic concept of salvation is not based upon good deeds, but is based primarily upon faith. In the dozens of times Allah Almighty talks in the Qur'an about salvation, he always states, "Those who believe and do good deeds." Belief is always mentioned before deeds or works. When one converts to Islam, one does not do it by doing some good work but rather through realizing and believing that there is but one God and Muhammad PBUH is his last messenger. Non-Muslims may perform good works as well, but what sets them apart from Muslims is their lack of faith (iman), or belief. The reason that the good works of the non-believers are worthless in the hereafter is because of their disbelief. Unless a person's iman or aqeedah is not correct, all his good deeds are worthless. One of the more popular hadiths of the Prophet (peace be upon him) states, "All actions are based upon intentions," implying that the purpose, intent, or iman behind your action is what you get rewarded for; the actual action is really a consequence of the belief.

Another hadith (saying from Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him) states, "A man came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and asked, 'When will the day of judgment come?' The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, 'What have you prepared for the judgment day that you are so concerned for it?' He replied, 'I do not have any good deeds in my account, but I do have one

thing: I love Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him).' The Prophet (peace be upon him) then said, 'In that case, do not worry; you will be with those whom you love.'" (Agreed Upon). This saying from Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him also confirms the Islamic position of placing aqeedah (faith) and belief before actions. For example, Allah Almighty says in various parts of the Qur'an, "The believers you will find praying..." He does not say the people who are praying are believers. It is the belief that brings about the action, but the converse is not always true. Another hadith (saying) of the Prophet (peace be upon him) states, "Unless one loves Allah and Allah's Messenger more than one's own self his iman is not complete."

Part 2: The Bible

Another misunderstanding Muslims often fall into concerns the Bible. Christian missionaries in almost every discussion of the Qur'an assert that the Qur'an asks Muslims to believe in the Bible as a revelation of God. Many Muslims tend to fall into this trap by saying that "we believe in the Bible as revealed book." Once the Muslim accepts this fact, the evangelist can point out that the Bible contradicts the Qur'an and that since the Bible has precedence over the Qur'an and since Muslims are required to believe in it, it therefore logically follows that the Bible is right and the Quran is wrong. But the Qur'an says no such thing.

There is no reference to the Bible in the Qur'an whatsoever. The Qur'an mentions the Taurat (Old Testament) and the Injil (New Testament). The Taurat is the book given to prophet Moses. This is the equivalent of the Torah/Pentateuch of the Jews and Christians, since much of it was not written by prophet Moses. And the Taurat is definitely not the Old Testament since the OT includes dozens of books attributed to other prophets before Jesus. The Injil is translated as the Gospel revealed to prophet Jesus. This is not the New Testament.

The New Testament is a collection of 4 biographies of Christ, 27 epistles of St. Paul, and other books on the lives and adventures on the followers of Christ. There is no record of a book revealed to Jesus. Perhaps the closest to it are the words of Jesus himself, which constitutes less than 10% of the NT. Therefore to say that Christians changed the Bible is an inaccurate statement, and can cause trouble in a discussion, because the Christian can then ask questions such as: Who changed the Bible? When exactly was it changed? How do you know it was changed if you don't have a copy of the original? The Bible, or at least the New Testament, cannot be an altered

copy of the Injil because it is a completely different book.

In fact, the original Bible or New Testament (the very first one) did not correspond to the Injil, Taurat, or Zabur in the first place. It doesn't matter how unreliably it was transmitted; the Bible does not correspond to the Qur'anic Injil.

It is not that the Christians have changed the original, but rather they have the wrong book, altogether. The words of Christ are possibly the closest thing to the Injil, **but if some of them don't agree with the Noble Quran, then we don't take them.** The recently discovered Gospel of Thomas, which is nothing but a list of sayings of Jesus, is even closer to the Islamic concept of Injil. Therefore, it should be kept in mind in discussion with Christians that the Bible has not been changed, but rather the original documents chosen as the word of God were incorrect.

Goethe:

"If this be Islam, do we not all live in Islam?"

(Writing in the 1770s)

A.Christian Missionary's "Thinking.Questions"

Article based on **Gary Miller's** Speech on Islam and Christianity

http://www.themodernreligion.com/comparative/christ/christiniaty_mission_questions.htm

Missionary: *Does the Qur'an say that Jesus was sinless?*
Muslim: Yes. Jesus was perfect man. Never sinned.

Missionary: *Does the Qur'an tell Muhammad to repent?*

Muslim: Yes. Qur'an tells the prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to repent.

That's all. The missionary doesn't say anything else. He hopes now that the Muslim would start thinking: *"Now, wait a minute, Jesus never sinned, but Muhammad was supposed to repent. Maybe Jesus is better!"*

Missionary wants the Muslim to start thinking that a sinless man is better than a "repentant sinner". Missionary is hoping, but he dare not say it. Because if the Missionary says that, he goes exactly against the teachings of Jesus. If the Missionary is foolish enough to say that a sinless man is better than a repentant sinner, he's going against the teachings of Jesus.

The reason why the **Missionary is going against the teachings of Jesus** is this: Story of a lost sheep. Mathew Chapter 18, verse 12: Jesus said, *"If a man has a 100 sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the 99 on the hills, and go on the search of the one that went astray. And if he finds it, truely I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the 99 that never went astray."*

Jesus was trying to hammer that point home to his disciples: Don't you dare say, for example, because you've been a faithful follower for many years that you're better than this one who just became a believer just yesterday. The perfect man has no precedence over the repentant sinner.

Moments later....

Missionary: *Was Jesus the Messiah.?*
Muslim: Yes.

Missionary: *Was Muhammad the Messiah?*
Muslim: No.

Now, the Missionary stops there, and hopes that the Muslim would start thinking, *"Now, wait a minute, Jesus is the Messiah, and Muhammad is not the Messiah. Maybe Jesus is better!"*

What the Muslim should ask the Missionary about this word Messiah: Jesus was the Messiah, but were there any other Messiahs besides Jesus?

Now you find out how well he knows his Bible. **Because there were many Messiahs: David, Solomon, and even Cyrus, the Persian were called Messiahs in the Bible**. It's hard to find it in the Bible because the translators cover it over. Messiah means "anointed".

A Messiah is someone who has been picked to do a job. Every king of ancient Israel was called Messiah. Now the word doesn't sound so special anymore. It is a title, but it doesn't particularly elevate one to divine status.

Moments later....
Missionary: *Where's the body of Jesus.?*
Muslim: God took it.

Missionary: *Where's the body of Muhammad?*
Muslim: Its in Madinah. It's burried in the ground.

Now the Missionary hopes that the Muslim would go away thinking, *"Now that's interesting! The body of Jesus is gone; Muhammad is in the grave. Maybe Jesus is the true Messenger, Muhammad is false!"*

The Missionary is hoping the thought would cross the Muslim's mind, but he dare not say it.

What the Muslim should ask the Missionary is this: "Do you mean that a dead and buried Prophet is a false prophet? Is that what you mean?"

If that is so, what does Missionary say about Abraham, for example?

Abraham is buried. Jews and Muslims to this day, still go to the place where Abraham is buried, to visit his grave.

Is Abraham a false prophet because he's dead and buried in the ground? The Bible also states body of Moses was taken up by God. God sent an angel to take the body away. Does this mean Jesus and Moses are equal in their "divine status"? What has the Missionary's question prove?

The most common questions asked by Christian missionaries against Islam

By Dr. Zakir Naik

http://www.irf.net/irf/faqonislam/index.htm

Question :Is it not true that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has copied the Qur'an from the Bible?

Answer: Many critics allege that Prophet Muhummad (pbuh) himself was not the author of the Qur'an but he learnt it and/or plagiarised (copied or adapted) it from other human sources or from previous scriptures or revelations.

1.THE FIRST ALLEGATION THAT THE PROPHET MUHUMMAD (PBUH) LEARNT THE QUR'AN FROM A ROMAN BLACKSMITH WHO WAS A CHRISTIAN

Some Pagans accused the Prophet of learning the Qur'an from a Roman Blacksmith, who was a Christian staying at the outskirts of Makkah. The Prophet very often used to go and watch him do his work. A revelation of the Qur'an was sufficient to dismiss this charge - the Qur'an says in Surah An-Nahl chapter 16 verse 103:

"We know indeed that they say, 'It is a man that teaches him,' The tongue of him they wickedly point to is notably foreign, while this is Arabic, pure and clear."
[Al-Qur'an 16:103]

How could a person whose mother tongue was foreign and could hardly speak little but of poor broken Arabic be the source of the Qur'an which is pure, eloquent, fine Arabic? To believe that the blacksmith taught the Prophet the Qur'an is some what similar to believing that a Chinese immigrant to England, who did not know proper English, taught Shakespeare.

2.THE SECOND ALLEGATION THAT THE PROPHET MUHUMMAD (PBUH) LEARNT FROM WARAQA - THE RELATIVE OF KHADIJAH (RA)

Muhummad's (pbuh) contacts with the Jewish and Christian Scholars were very limited. The most prominent Christian known to him was an old blind

man called Waraqa ibn-Naufal who was a relative of the Prophet’s first wife Khadijah (r.a.). Although of Arab descent, he was a convert to Christianity and was very well versed with the New Testament. The Prophet only met him twice, first when Waraqa was worshipping at the Kaaba (before the Prophetic Mission) and he kissed the Prophet’s forehead affectionately; the second occasion was when the Prophet went to meet Waraqa after receiving the first revelation. Waraqa died three years later and the revelation continued for about 23 years. It is ridiculous to assume that Waraqa was the source of the contents of the Qur’an.

3.THE THIRD ALLEGATION ABOUT THE PROPHET’S RELIGIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

It is true that the Prophet did have religious discussions with the Jews and Christians but they took place in Madinah more than 13 years after the revelation of the Qur’an had started. The allegation that these Jews and Christians were the source is perverse, since in these discussions Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was performing the roles of a teacher and of a preacher while inviting them to embrace Islam and pointing out that they had deviated from their true teachings of Monotheism. Several of these Jews and Christians later embraced Islam.

4.THE FOURTH ALLEGATION THAT THE PROPHET LEARNT THE QUR’AN FROM THOSE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS THAT HE MET OUTSIDE ARABIA

All historical records available show that the prophet Muhummad (pbuh) had made only three trips outside Makkah before his Prophethood:

- At the age of 9 he accompanied his mother to Madinah.
- Between the age of 9 and 12, he accompanied his uncle Abu-Talib on a business trip to Syria.
- At the age of 25 he (pbuh) led Khadija’s (r.a) Caravan to Syria.

It is highly imaginary to assume that the Qur’an resulted from the occasional chats and meetings with the Christians or Jews from any of the above three trips.

5.LOGICAL GROUNDS TO PROVE THAT THE PROPHET (PBUH) DID NOT LEARN THE QUR'AN FROM JEWS OR CHRISTIANS

The day-to-day life of the Prophet (pbuh) was an open book for all to see. In fact a revelation came asking people to give the Prophet (pbuh) privacy in his own home. If the Prophet had been meeting people who told him what to say as a revelation from God, this would not have been hidden for very long.

The extremely prominent Quraish nobles who followed the Prophet (pbuh) and accepted Islam were wise and intelligent men who would have easily noticed anything suspicious about the way in which the Prophet brought the revelations to them - more so since the Prophetic mission lasted 23 years.

The enemies of the Prophet (pbuh) kept a close watch on him in order to find proof for their claim that he was a liar - they could not point out even a single instance when the Prophet may have had a secret rendezvous with particular Jews and Christians.

It is inconceivable that any human author of the Qur'an would have accepted a situation in which he received no credit whatsoever for originating the Qur'an.

Thus, historically and logically it cannot be established that there was a human source for the Qur'an.

6. MUHUMMAD (PBUH) WAS AN ILLITERATE

The theory that Muhummad (pbuh) authored the Qur'an or copied from other sources can be disproved by the single historical fact that he was illiterate.

Allah testifies Himself in the Qur'an
In Surah Al-Ankabut chapter no.29 verse 48

"And thou was not (able) to recite a Book before this (Book came), nor art thou (able) to transcribe it with thy right hand: in that case, indeed, would the talkers of vanities have doubted."
[Al-Qur'an 29:48]

Allah (swt) knew that many would doubt the authenticity of the Qur'an and would ascribe it to Prophet Muhummad (pbuh). Therefore Allah in His Divine Wisdom chose the last and final Messenger to be an 'Ummi', i.e. unlettered, so that the talkers of vanity would not then have the slightest

justification to doubt the Prophet. The accusation of his enemies that he had copied the Qur'an from other sources and rehashed it all in a beautiful language might have carried some weight, but even this flimsy pretence has been deprived to the unbeliever and the cynic.

Allah reconfirms in the Qur'an in Surah Al A'raf chapter 7 verse 157:

"Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, whom they find mentioned in their own (Scriptures) in the Law and the Gospel"

The prophecy of coming of the unlettered Prophet (pbuh) is also mentioned in the Bible in the book of Isaiah chapter 29 verse 12.

"And the book is delivered to him that is not learned." [Isaiah 29:12]

The Qur'an testifies in no less than four different places that the Prophet (pbuh) was illiterate. It is also mentioned in Surah A'raf chapter 7 verse 158 and in Surah Al-Jumu'a chapter 62 verse 2.

7. ARABIC VERSION OF THE BIBLE WAS NOT PRESENT

The Arabic version of the Bible was not present at the time of Prophet Muhummad (pbuh). The earliest Arabic version of the Old Testament is that of R. Saadias Gaon of 900 C.E. - more than 250 years after the death of our beloved Prophet. The oldest Arabic version of the new Testament was published by Erpenius in 1616 C.E. - about a thousand years after the demise of our Prophet.

8. SIMILARITIES IN THE QUR'AN AND THE BIBLE DUE TO COMMON SOURCE

Similarities between the Qur'an and the Bible does not necessarily mean that the former has been copied from the latter. In fact it gives evidence that both of them are based on a common third source; all divine revelations came from the same source - the one universal God. No matter what human changes were introduced into some of these Judeo-Christian and other older religious scriptures that had distorted their originality, there are some areas that have remained free from distortion and thus are common to many religions.

It is true that there are some similar parallels between the Qur'an and the Bible but this is not sufficient to accuse Muhummad (pbuh) of compiling or copying from the Bible. The same logic would then also be applicable to

teachings of Christianity and Judaism and thus one could wrongly claim that Jesus (pbuh) was not a genuine Prophet (God forbid) and that he simply copied from the Old Testament.

The similarities between the two signify a common source that is one true God and the continuation of the basic message of monotheism and not that the later prophets have plagiarised from the previous prophets.

If someone copies during an examination he will surely not write in the answer sheet that he has copied from his neighbour or Mr. XYZ. Prophet Muhummad (pbuh) gave due respect and credit to all the previous prophets (pbut). The Qur'an also mentions the various revelations given by Almighty God to different prophets.

9. MUSLIMS BELIEVE IN THE TAURAH, ZABOOR, INJEEL AND QUR'AN

Four revelations of Allah (swt) are mentioned by name in the Qur'an: the Taurah, the Zaboor, the Injeel and the Qur'an.

Taurah, the revelation i.e. the Wahi given to Moosa (a. s.) i.e. Moses (pbuh). Zaboor, the revelation i.e. the Wahi given to Dawood (a.s.) i.e. David (pbuh). Injeel, the revelation i.e. the Wahi given to Isa (A.S.) ie. Jesus (pbuh). 'Al-Qur'an', the last and final Wahi i.e. revelation given to the last and final Messenger Muhammad (pbuh).

It is an article of faith for every Muslim to believe in all the Prophets of God and all revelations of God. However, the present day Bible has the first five books of the Old Testament attributed to Moses and the Psalms attributed to David. Moreover the New Testament or the four Gospels of the New Testament are not the Taurah, the Zaboor or the Injeel, which the Qur'an refers to. These books of the present day Bible may partly contain the word of God but these books are certainly not the exact, accurate and complete revelations given to the prophets.

The Qur'an presents all the different prophets of Allah as belonging to one single brotherhood; all had a similar prophetic mission and the same basic message. Because of this, the fundamental teachings of the major faiths cannot be contradictory, even if there has been a considerable passage of time between the different prophetic missions, because the source of these missions was one: Almighty God, Allah. This is why the Qur'an says that the differences which exist between various religions are not the responsibility of the prophets, but of the followers of these prophets who

forgot part of what they had been taught, and furthermore, misinterpreted and changed the scriptures. The Qur'an cannot therefore be seen as a scripture which competes with the teachings of Moses, Jesus and the other prophets. On the contrary, it confirms, completes and perfects the messages that they brought to their people.

Another name for the Qur'an is the 'The Furqan' which means the criteria to judge the right from the wrong, and it is on the basis of the Qur'an that we can decipher which part of the previous scriptures can be considered to be the word of God.

10. SCIENTIFIC COMPARISON BETWEEN QUR'AN AND BIBLE

If you glance through the Bible and the Qur'an you may find several points which appear to be exactly the same in both of them, but when you analyse them closely, you realise that there is a difference of 'chalk and cheese' between them. Only based on historical details it is difficult for someone who is neither conversant with Christianity or Islam to come to a firm decision as to which of the scriptures is true; however if you verify the relevant passages of both the scriptures against scientific knowledge, you will yourself realize the truth.

Creation of the Universe in Six Days

As per the Bible, in the first book of Genesis in Chapter One, the universe was created in six days and each day is defined as a twenty-four hours period. Even though the Qur'an mentions that the universe was created in six 'Ayyaams', 'Ayyaam' is the plural of years; this word has two meanings: firstly, it means a standard twenty-four hours period i.e. a day, and secondly, it also means stage, period or epoch which is a very long period of time.

When the Qur'an mentions that the universe was created in six 'Ayyaams', it refers to the creation of the heavens and the earth in six long periods or epochs; scientists have no objection to this statement. The creation of the universe has taken billions of years, which proves false or contradicts the concept of the Bible which states that the creation of the Universe took six days of twenty-four hour durations each.

Sun Created After the Day

The Bible says in chapter 1, verses 3-5, of Genesis that the phenomenon of day and night was created on the first day of creation of the Universe by God. The light circulating in the universe is the

result of a complex reaction in the stars; these stars were created according to the Bible (Genesis chapter 1 verse 14 to 19) on the fourth day. It is illogical to mention the result that is the light (the phenomenon of day and night) was created on the first day of Creation when the cause or source of the light was created three days later. Moreover the existence of evening and morning as elements of a single day is only conceivable after the creation of the earth and its rotation around the sun. In contrast with the contents of the Bible on this issue, the Qur'an does not give any unscientific sequence of Creation. Hence it is absolutely absurd to say that Prophet Muhummad (pbuh) copied the passages pertaining to the creation of the universe from the Bible but missed out this illogical and fantastic sequence of the Bible.

Creation of the Sun, The Earth and the Moon

According to the Bible, Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 9 to 13, the earth was created on the third day, and as per verses 14 to 19, the sun and the moon were created on the fourth day. The earth and the moon emanated, as we know, from their original star, the Sun. Hence to place the creation of the sun and the moon after the creation of the earth is contrary to the established idea about the formation of the solar system.

Vegetation Created on the third day and Sun on the fourth day

According to the Bible, Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 11-13, vegetation was created on the third day along with seed-bearing grasses, plants and trees; and further on as per verses 14-19, the sun was created on the fourth day. How is it scientifically possible for the vegetation to have appeared without the presence of the sun, as has been stated in the Bible?

If Prophet Muhummad (pbuh) was indeed the author of the Qur'an and had copied its contents from the Bible, how did he manage to avoid the factual errors that the Bible contains? The Qur'an does not contain any statements which are incompatible with scientific facts.

The Sun and the Moon both Emit light

According to the Bible both the sun and the moon emit their own light. In the Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 16 says, "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night".

Science tells us today that the moon does not have its own light. This

confirms the Qur'anic concept that the light of the moon is a reflected light. To think that 1400 years ago, Prophet Muhummad (pbuh) corrected these scientific errors in the Bible and then copied such corrected passages in the Qur'an is to think of something impossible.

11. ADAM (PBUH), THE FIRST MAN ON EARTH, LIVED 5,800 YEARS AGO

As per the genealogy of Jesus Christ given in the Bible, from Jesus through Abraham (pbuh) to the first man on earth i.e. Adam (pbuh), Adam appeared on the earth approximately 5800 years ago:

1948 years between Adam (pbuh) and Abraham (pbuh)

Approximately 1800 years between Abraham (pbuh) and Jesus (pbuh)

2000 years from Jesus (pbuh) till today

These figures are further confused by the fact that the Jewish calendar is currently on or about 5800 years old.

There is sufficient evidence from archaeological and anthropological sources to suggest that the first human being on earth was present tens of thousands of years ago and not merely 5,800 years ago as is suggested by the Bible. The Qur'an too speaks about Adam (pbuh) as the first man on earth but it does not suggest any date or period of his life on earth, unlike the Bible - what the Bible says in this regard is totally incompatible with science.

12. NOAH (PBUH) AND THE FLOOD

The Biblical description of the flood in Genesis chapter 6, 7 and 8 indicates that the deluge was universal and it destroyed every living thing on earth, except those present with Noah (pbuh) in the ark. The description suggests that the event took place 1656 years after the creation of Adam (pbuh) or 292 years before the birth of Abraham, at a time when Noah (pbuh) was 600 years old. Thus the flood may have occurred in the 21st or 22nd Century B.C.

This story of the flood, as given in the Bible, contradicts scientific evidence from archaelogical sources which indicate that the eleventh dynasty in Egypt and the third dynasty in Babylonia were in existence without any break in civilisation and in a manner totally unaffected by any major calamity which may have occurred in the 21st century B.C. This contradicts the Biblical story that the whole world had been immersed in the flood water. In contrast

to this, the Qur'anic presentation of the story of Noah and the flood does not conflict with scientific evidence or archaeological data; firstly, the Qur'an does not indicate any specific date or year of the occurance of that event, and secondly, according to the Qur'an the flood was not a universal phenomenon which destroyed complete life on earth. In fact the Qur'an specifically mentions that the flood was a localised event only involving the people of Noah.

It is illogical to assume that Prophet Muhummad (pbuh) had borrowed the story of the flood from the Bible and corrected the mistakes before mentioning it in the Qur'an.

13. MOSES (PBUH) AND PHARAOH OF THE EXODUS

The story of Moses (pbuh) and the Pharaoh of the Exodus are very much identical in the Qur'an and the Bible. Both scriptures agree that the Pharaoh drowned when he tried to pursue Moses (pbuh) and led the Israelites across a stretch of water that they crossed. The Qur'an gives an additional piece of information in Surah Yunus chapter 10 verse 92:

"This day shall We save thee in thy body, that thou mayest be a sign to those who come after thee! But verily, many among mankind are heedless of Our Signs!" [Al-Qur'an 10:92]

Dr. Maurice Bucaille, after a thorough research proved that although Rameses II was known to have persecuted the Israelites as per the Bible, he actually died while Moses (pbuh) was taking refuge in Median. Rameses II's son Merneptah who succeeded him as Pharaoh drowned during the exodus. In 1898, the mummified body of Merneptah was found in the valley of Kings in Egypt. In 1975, Dr. Maurice Bucaille with other doctors received permission to examine the Mummy of Merneptah, the findings of which proved that Merneptah probably died from drowning or a violent shock which immediately preceeded the moment of drowning. Thus the Qur'anic verse that we shall save his body as a sign, has been fulfilled by the Pharaohs' body being kept at the Royal Mummies room in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

This verse of the Qur'an compelled Dr. Maurice Bucaille, who was a Christian then, to study the Qur'an. He later wrote a book 'The Bible, the Qur'an and Science', and confessed that the author of the Qur'an can be no one else besides God Himself. Thus he embraced Islam.

14. QUR'AN IS A BOOK FROM ALLAH

These evidences are sufficient to conclude that the Qur'an was not copied from the Bible, but that the Qur'an is the Furqaan - 'the Criteria' to judge right from wrong and it should be used to decipher which portion of the Bible may be considered as the Word of God.

The Qur'an itself testifies in Surah Sajda chapter 32 verse 1 to 3

Alif Laam Meem. (This is) the revelation of the Book in which there is no doubt – from the Lord of the Worlds.

Or do they say, 'He has forged it'? Nay, it is the Truth from thy Lord, that thou mayest admonish a people to whom no warner has come before thee: in order that they may receive guidance."
[Al-Qur'an 32:1-3]

Question: It is mentioned in the Qur'an that Mary was the sister of Aaron (pbuh). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) who wrote the Qur'an did not know the difference between Miriam the sister of Aaron (pbuh) and Mary the Mother of Jesus (pbuh), the time span between both of them was about a thousand years.

Answer

1. IN THE SEMITIC LANGUAGES SISTER ALSO MEANS DESCENDANT

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Maryam, Chapter 19 verses 27-28

"At length she brought the (babe) to her people, carrying him (in her arms). They said: 'O Mary! Truly an amazing thing hast thou brought!

O sister of Aaron! Thy father was not a man of evil, nor thy mother a woman unchaste!'"
[Al-Qur'an 19:27-28]

Christian missionaries say that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not know the difference between Mary the mother of Jesus (pbuh) and Miriam the sister of Aaron (pbuh). The time span between both was more than a thousand years.

In the Arabic construction of the sentence, sister is also considered as a descendant. Thus, when the people said to Mary, Ukhta Haroon i.e. 'sister of Aaron' it actually means descendant of Aaron (pbuh).

2. SON ALSO MEANS DESCENDANT

It is mentioned in the Gospel of Mathew, Chapter 1 verse 1

"Jesus Christ, the son of David,...." [Mathew 1:1]

Gospel of Luke Chapter 3, verse 23
"And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph,......" [Luke 3:23]

DID JESUS (PBUH) HAVE TWO FATHERS?

What do you call a person who has two fathers? The explanation of the phrase that Jesus (pbuh) was the son of David (pbuh), is that Jesus (pbuh) was a descendant of David (pbuh). ‘Son’, here means a descendant.

Question : Is it not true that the Qur’an mentions in Surah Maryam, Chapter 19 verse 33 that Jesus (pbuh) died and was resurrected?

Answer

JESUS (PBUH) SAID, "THE DAY THAT I DIE", NOT "THE DAY THAT I DIED"

It is mentioned in Surah Maryam, Chapter 19 verse 33

"So Peace is on me the day I was born, the day that I die and the Day that I shall be raised up to life (again)" .[Al-Qur’an 19:33]

The Qur’an mentions that Jesus (pbuh) said "Peace is on me the Day I was born, the day that I die". It is not stated "the day that I died". It is in the future tense and not in the past tense.

1. JESUS (PBUH) WAS RAISED UP ALIVE

The Qur’an further says in Surah Nisa, Chapter 4 verse 157-158:

"That they said (in boast), ‘We killed Jesus Christ the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah’ – But they killed him not, Nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not –Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself; and Allah is exalted in Power, Wise." [Al-Qur’an 4:157-158]

Question : Does not the Qur’an mention that Jesus is Kalimatullah –"The

Word of Allah (swt)", as well as Ruhullah – "The Spirit of Allah", indicating his Divinity?

Answer

1. JESUS (PBUH) "IS A WORD FROM ALLAH" NOT "THE WORD OF ALLAH"

The Qur'an mentions in Surah Ali 'Imran Chapter 3 verse 45

"Behold! The angels said: O Mary! Allah giveth thee glad tidings of a Word from Him: his name will be Christ Jesus. The son of Mary, held in honour in this world and the Hereafter and of (the company of) those Nearest to Allah. [Al-Qur'an 3:45] Jesus (pbuh) is referred in the Qur'an as a word from Allah and not as 'the word of Allah'.

"A word" of Allah means a message of Allah. If a person is referred to as "a word" from Allah, it means that he is a Messenger or a Prophet of Allah.

2. THE TITLE OF A PROPHET (PBUH) DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT EXCLUSIVELY BELONGS TO THAT PROPHET (PBUH)

Different titles are given to different prophets (pbut). Whenever a title is given to a prophet (pbuh), it does not necessarily mean that the other prophets do not have the same characteristic or quality. For e.g. Prophet Abraham (pbuh) is referred to in the Qur'an as Khaleelullah, a friend of Allah. This does not indicate that all the other Prophets (pbuh) were not the friends of Allah. Prophet Moses (pbuh) is referred to in the Qur'an as Kaleemullah, indicating that God spoke to him. This does not mean that God did not speak to others. Similarly when Jesus (pbuh) is referred to in the Qur'an as Kalimatullah, "a word from Allah", it does not mean that the other Prophets were not "the word," of Allah.

3. JOHN THE BAPTIST (PBUH) IS ALSO CALLED "A WORD" OF ALLAH

Yahya (pbuh) i.e. John the Baptist (pbuh) is also referred to in the Qur'an as Kalimatullah i.e. a word of Allah in Surah Ali 'Imran, Chapter 3, verses 38-39

"There did Zakariya Pray to his Lord, saying: "O my Lord! Grant unto me from Thee a progeny that is pure: for Thou art He that heareth prayer!

While he was standing in prayer in the chamber, the angels called unto him: "Allah doth give thee glad tidings of Yahya, witnessing the truth of a Word from Allah, and (be besides) noble, chaste, and a Prophet – of the (goodly)

company of the righteous." [Al-Qur’an 3:39]

4. JESUS (PBUH) REFERRED AS RUHULLAH – A SPIRIT OF ALLAH

Jesus (pbuh) also never referred to as Ruhullah "a spirit of Allah" but as a spirit from Allah in Surah Nisa Chapter 4 verse 171

"O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Jesus Christ the son of Mary was (no more than) a Messenger of Allah, And His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His Messengers. Say not ‘Trinity’: desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is One God: glory be to Him: (Far Exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs." [Al-Qur’an 4:171]

5. SPIRIT OF ALLAH IS BREATHED IN EVERY HUMAN BEING

A spirit from Allah does not indicate that Jesus (pbuh) is God. The Qur’an mentions in several places that Allah breathed into the human beings "His Spirit" in Surah Al-Hijr, chapter 15 verse 29 in Surah Sajdah, chapter 32 verse 9 Surah Al Hijr Chapter 15 verse 29 "When I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed into him of My spirit, fall ye down in obeisance unto him.".[Al-Qur’an 15:29] Surah Sajdah Chapter 32 verse 9 "But He fashioned him in due proportion, and breathed into him something of His spirit. And He gave you (the faculties of) hearing and sight and feeling (and understanding):.little thanks do ye give!" [Al-Qur’an 32:9]

Question: The Qur’an is not the Word of God but on the contrary the handiwork of Satan.

Answer In reply to a similar allegation put forward by the pagans of Makkah, that the prophet (pbuh) received the revelations from Satan, the following verses were revealed:

Surah Waqiah, chapter 56 verses 77-80 "That this is ndeed A Qur’an most honourable, In a Book well-guarded, Which none shall touch But those who are clean: A Revelation from the Lord Of the Worlds."

Kitabim Maknoon means a book well guarded or a protected book, referring to Lauh-e-Mahfooz in the heaven, which none shall touch except the

Mutahhareen. i.e. those who do not have any uncleanliness or impurity or evil like sin. This refers to the angels. The satan is absolutely prohobited.

Thus since it is impossible for satan to come anywhere close to it or touch it, the question of him writing the verses of the Glorious Qur'an does not arise.

It is further mentioned in Surah Shura, chapter 26 verse 210-212

"No evil ones have brought Down this (Revelation): It would neither suit.

them Nor would they be able (To produce it). Indeed they have been removed Far from even (a chance of) Hearing it."

Many people have a wrong concept of satan. They think that satan can probably do everything, except a couple of things that God can do. According to them, satan is slightly below God in power. Since the people do not want to accept that the Qur'an is a miraculous revelation, they say that it is satan's handiwork.

If satan would have written the Qur'an, he would not have mentioned in the same Qur'an in Surah Nahl, chapter 16 verse no. 98 "When thou does read The Qur'an, seek Allah's protection from Satan the Rejected One."

Is this how you feel satan would write a book? Does he tell you; "Before you read my book ask God to save you from me?"

There are several verses in the Qur'an which will give enough evidence that satan is not the author of the Qur'an.

In Surah Al Aaraf chapter 7 verse 200

"If a suggestion from Satan assail your (mind), seek refuge with Allah; for He hears and knows (all things).

Why would satan tell his followers, that whenever he gives any suggestions to them, they should seek refuge in Allah (swt) to whom he is an avowed enemy.

In Surah Baqarah, chapter 2 verse 168

"O ye people! Eat of what is on earth, lawful and good; and do not follow the footsteps of the Evil one, For he is to you an avowed enemy."

In Surah Yasin, chapter 36 verse 60

"Did I not enjoin on you, O ye children of Adam, that ye should not worship Satan; for that he was to you an enemy avowed?"

Satan is intelligent, no wonder that he can put this idea into the minds of people that he himself wrote the Qur'an. Compared to Almighty God, Satan is insignificant, and Allah (swt) is far more intelligent. He knows satan's evil intentions and hence no wonder that He has given the reader of the Qur'an several proofs to show that Qur'an is God's word, and not satan's word.

The Bible mentions in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 3, verses 24-26

"And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand."

"And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

"And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end."

Question :There were many versions of the Qur'an all of which were burnt by Usman (r.a.) except for one. Therefore is it not true that the present Qur'an is the one compiled by Usman (r.a.) and not the original revelation of God?

Answer: One of the most common myths about the Qur'an, is that Usman (r.a.), the third Caliph of Islam authenticated and compiled one Qur'an, from a large set of mutually contradicting copies. The Qur'an, revered as the Word of Allah (swt) by Muslims the world over, is the same Qur'an as the one revealed to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It was authenticated and written under his personal supervision. We will examine the roots of the myth which says that Usman (r.a.) had the Qur'an authenticated.

1. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) himself supervised and authenticated the written texts of the Qur'an

Whenever the Prophet received a revelation, he would first memorize it himself and later declare the revelation and instruct his Companions (R.A. – Radhi Allahu Taala Anhu) – May Allah be pleased with him who would also memorize it. The Prophet would immediately ask the scribes to write down the revelation he had received, and he would reconfirm and recheck it himself. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was an *Ummi* who could not read and write. Therefore, after receiving each revelation, he would repeat it to his Companions. They would write down the revelation, and he would recheck by asking them to read what they had written. If there was any mistake, the

Prophet would immediately point it out and have it corrected and rechecked. Similarly he would even recheck and authenticate the portions of the Qur'an memorized by the Companions. In this way, the complete Qur'an was written down under the personal supervision of the prophet (pbuh).

2. <u>Order and sequence of Qur'an divinely inspired</u>

The complete Qur'an was revealed over a period of 22½ years portion by portion, as and when it was required. The Qur'an was not compiled by the Prophet in the chronological order of revelation. The order and sequence of the Qur'an too was Divinely inspired and was instructed to the Prophet by Allah (swt) through archangel Jibraeel. Whenever a revelation was conveyed to his companions, the Prophet would also mention in which *surah* (chapter) and after which ayat (verse) this new revelation should fit.

Every *Ramadhaan* all the portions of the Qur'an that had been revealed, including the order of the verses, were revised and reconfirmed by the Prophet with archangel Jibraeel. During the last *Ramadhaan,* before the demise of the Prophet, the Qur'an was rechecked and reconfirmed twice.

It is therefore clearly evident that the Qur'an was compiled and authenticated by the Prophet himself during his lifetime, both in the written form as well as in the memory of several of his Companions.

3. <u>Qur'an copied on one common material</u>

The complete Qur'an, along with the correct sequence of the verses, was present during the time of the Prophet (pbuh). The verses however, were written on separate pieces, scrapes of leather, thin flat stones, leaflets, palm branches, shoulder blades, etc. After the demise of the prophet, Abu Bakr (r.a.), the first caliph of Islam ordered that the Qur'an be copied from the various different materials on to a common material and place, which was in the shape of sheets. These were tied with strings so that nothing of the compilation was lost.

4. <u>Usman (r.a.) made copies of the Qur'an from the original manuscript</u>

Many Companions of the Prophet used to write down the revelation of the Qur'an on their own whenever they heard it from the lips of the Prophet. However what they wrote was not personally verified by the Prophet and thus could contain mistakes. All the verses revealed to the Prophet may not have been heard personally by all the Companions. There were high possibilities of different portions of the Qur'an being missed by different Companions. This gave rise to disputes among Muslims regarding the different contents of the Qur'an during the period of the third Caliph Usman (r.a.). Usman (r.a.) borrowed the original manuscript of the Qur'an, which

was authorized by the beloved Prophet (pbuh), from Hafsha (may Allah be pleased with her), the Prophet's wife. Usman (r.a.) ordered four Companions who were among the scribes who wrote the Qur'an when the Prophet dictated it, led by Zaid bin Thabit (r.a.) to rewrite the script in several perfect copies. These were sent by Usman (r.a.) to the main centres of Muslims.

There were other personal collections of the portions of the Qur'an that people had with them. These might have been incomplete and with mistakes. Usman (r.a.) only appealed to the people to destroy all these copies which did not match the original manuscript of the Qur'an in order to preserve the original text of the Qur'an. Two such copies of the copied text of the original Qur'an authenticated by the Prophet are present to this day, one at the museum in Tashkent in erstwhile Soviet Union and the other at the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul, Turkey.

5. <u>Diacritical marks were added for non-Arabs</u>

The original manuscript of the Qur'an does not have the signs indicating the vowels in Arabic script. These vowels are known as *tashkil, zabar, zair, paish* in Urdu and as *fatah, damma* and *qasra* in Arabic. The Arabs did not require the vowel signs and diacritical marks for correct pronunciation of the Qur'an since it was their mother tongue. For Muslims of non-Arab origin, however, it was difficult to recite the Qur'an correctly without the vowels. These marks were introduced into the Quranic script during the time of the fifth 'Umayyad' Caliph, Malik-ar-Marwan (66-86 Hijri/685-705 C.E.) and during the governorship of Al-Hajaj in Iraq.

Some people argue that the present copy of the Qur'an that we have along with the vowels and the diacritical marks is not the same original Qur'an that was present at the Prophet's time. But they fail to realize that the word 'Qur'an' means a recitation. Therefore, the preservation of the recitation of the Qur'an is important, irrespective of whether the script is different or whether it contains vowels. If the pronunciation and the Arabic is the same, naturally, the meaning remains the same too.

6. <u>Allah Himself has promised to guard the Qur'an</u>

Allah has promised in the Qur'an :

"We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly Guard it (from corruption)." [Al-Qur'an 15:9]

Question: Doesn't Islam promote violence, bloodshed and brutality since the Qur'an says that Muslims should kill the kuffar where ever they find them?

Answer: A few selected verses from the Qur'an are often misquoted to perpetuate the myth that Islam promotes violence, and exhorts its followers to kill those outside the pale of Islam.

1. <u>Verse from Surah Taubah</u>

The following verse from Surah Taubah is very often quoted by critics of Islam, to show that Islam promotes violence, bloodshed and brutality:

"Kill the *mushriqeen* (pagans, polytheists, *kuffar*) where ever you find them." [Al-Qur'an 9:5]

2. <u>Context of verse is during battlefield</u>

Critics of Islam actually quote this verse out of context. In order to understand the context, we need to read from verse 1 of this surah. It says that there was a peace treaty between the Muslims and the *Mushriqs* (pagans) of Makkah. This treaty was violated by the *Mushriqs* of Makkah. A period of four months was given to the *Mushriqs* of Makkah to make amends. Otherwise war would be declared against them. Verse 5 of Surah Taubah says:_"But when the forbidden months are past, then fight and slay the Pagans wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); but if they repent, and establish regular prayers and practise regular charity, then open the way for them: for Allah is oft-forgiving, Most merciful." [Al-Qur'an 9:5] This verse is quoted during a battle.

3. <u>Example of war between America and Vietnam</u>

We know that America was once at war with Vietnam. Suppose the President of America or the General of the American Army told the American soldiers during the war: "Wherever you find the Vietnamese, kill them". Today if I say that the American President said, "Wherever you find Vietnamese, kill them" without giving the context, I will make him sound like a butcher. But if I quote him in context, that he said it during a war, it will sound very logical, as he was trying to boost the morale of the American soldiers during the war.

4. <u>Verse 9:5 quoted to boost morale of Muslims during battle</u>

Similarly in Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 5 the Qur'an says, "Kill the *Mushriqs* where ever you find them", during a battle to boost the morale of the Muslim soldiers. What the Qur'an is telling Muslim soldiers is, don't be afraid during battle; wherever you find the enemies kill them.

5. <u>Shourie jumps from verse 5 to verse 7</u>

Arun Shourie is one of the staunchest critics of Islam in India. He quotes the same verse, Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 5 in his book 'The World of *Fatwahs'*, on page 572. After quoting verse 5 he jumps to verse 7 of Surah Taubah. Any sensible person will realise that he has skipped verse 6.

6. <u>Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 6 gives the answer</u>

Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 6 gives the answer to the allegation that Islam promotes violence, brutality and bloodshed. It says: "If one amongst the pagans ask thee for asylum,grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah; and then escort him to where he can be secure that is because they are men without knowledge." [Al-Qur'an 9:6]. The Qur'an not only says that a *Mushriq* seeking asylum during the battle should be granted refuge, but also that he should be escorted to a secure place. In the present international scenario, even a kind, peace-loving army General, during a battle, may let the enemy soldiers go free, if they want peace. But which army General will ever tell his soldiers, that if the enemy soldiers want peace during a battle, don't just let them go free, but also escort them to a place of security?

This is exactly what Allah (swt) says in the Glorious Qur'an to promote peace in the world.

Question: Does Islam believe in several gods because the Qur'an uses the word 'We' when God speaks in the Qur'an?

Answer: Islam is a strictly monotheistic religion. It believes in and adheres to uncompromising monotheism. It believes that God is one, and unique in His attributes. In the Qur'an, God often refers to Himself using the word 'We'. But this does not mean that Islam believes in the existence of more than one God.

<u>Two types of plural</u>

In several languages, there are two types of plurals, one is a plural of numbers to refer to something that occurs in a quantity of more than one.

The other plural is a plural of respect.

a. In the English language, the Queen of England refers to herself as ‘We’ instead of ‘I’. This is known as the ‘royal plural’.
b. Rajiv Gandhi, the ex-Prime Minister of India used to say in Hindi *"Hum dekhna chahte hain"*. "We want to see." *‘Hum’* means ‘We’ which is again a royal plural in Hindi.
c. Similarly in Arabic, when Allah refers to Himself in the Qur’an, He often uses Arabic word *'Nahnu'* meaning ‘We’. It does not indicate plural of number but plural of respect.

Tawheed or monotheism is one of the pillars of Islam. The existence and uniqueness of one and only one God is mentioned several times in the Qur’an. For instance in Surah Ikhlas, it says :

"Say He is Allah the One and Only."
[Al-Qur’an 112: 1]

Question: Muslims believe in the theory of abrogation, i.e. they believe that certain earlier verses of the Qur’an were abrogated by verses revealed later. Does this imply that God made a mistake and later on corrected it?

Answer:

1. <u>Two different interpretations</u>

The Glorious Qur’an says in the following verse:

"None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: knowest thou not that Allah hath power over all things?"
[Al-Qur’an 2:106]

A reference to this is also made in chapter 16 verse 101 of Surah Nahl. The Arabic word mentioned is *ayat* which means ‘signs’ or ‘verses’ and which can also mean ‘revelations’. This verse of the Qur’an can be interpreted in two different ways:

a. The revelations that are abrogated are those revelations that were revealed before the Qur’an, for example the *Torah*, the *Zaboor* and the *Injeel*.

Here Allah (swt) says that He does not cause the previous revelations to be forgotten but He substitutes them with something better or similar,

indicating that the *Torah*, the *Zaboor* and the *Injeel* were substituted by the Qur'an.

b. If we consider that the Arabic word *ayat* in the above verse refers to the verses of the Qur'an, and not previous revelations, then it indicates that none of the verses of the Qur'an are abrogated by Allah but substituted with something better or similar. This means that certain verses of the Qur'an, that were revealed earlier were substituted by verses that were revealed later. I agree with both the interpretations.

Many Muslims and non-Muslims misunderstand the second interpretation to mean that some of the earlier verses of the Qur'an were abrogated and no longer hold true for us today, as they have been replaced by the later verses of the Qur'an or the abrogating verses. This group of people even wrongly believe that these verses contradict each other.

Let us analyze a few such examples.

2. <u>Produce a recital like the Qur'an / 10 Surahs / 1 Surah:</u>

Some pagan Arabs alleged that the Qur'an was forged by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Allah (swt) challenges these Arabs in the following verse of Surah Al-Isra:

"Say: If the whole of Mankind and Jinns were together to produce the like of this Qur'an they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support."
[Al-Qur'an 17:88]

Later the challenge was made easy in the following verse of Surah Al-Hud:

"Or they may say, "He forged it." Say, "Bring ye then ten Surahs forged, like unto it, and call (to your aid) whomsover ye can, other than Allah, if ye speak the truth!'."
[Al-Qur'an 11:13]

It was made easier in the following verse of Surah Yunus:

"Or do they say, "He forged it"? Say: "Bring then a Surah like unto it, and call (to your aid) anyone you can, besides Allah, if it be ye speak the truth!'." [Al-Qur'an 10:38]

Finally in Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah (swt) further simplified the challenge:

And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a *Surah* like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah if your (doubts) are true.

But if ye cannot – and of a surety ye cannot – then fear the Fire whose fuel is

Men and Stones – which is prepared for those who reject faith". [Al-Qur'an 2:23-24]

Thus Allah (swt) made the challenges progressively easier. The progressively revealed verses of the Qur'an first challenged the pagans to produce a book like the Qur'an, then challenged them to produce ten *Surahs* (chapters) like those in the Qur'an, then one *Surah* and finally it challenges them to produce one Surah somewhat similar *(mim mislihi)* to the Qur'anic *Surahs*. This does not mean that the later verses that were revealed i.e. of Surah Baqarah chapter 2 verses 23 and 24 contradict the earlier three verses. Contradiction implies mentioning two things that cannot be possible simultaneously, or cannot take place simultaneously.

The earlier verses of the Qur'an i.e. the abrogated verses are still the word of God and the information contained in it is true to this day. For instance the challenge to produce a recital like the Qur'an stands to this day. Similarly the challenge to produce ten *Surahs* and one *Surah* exactly like the Qur'an also holds true and the last challenge of producing one surah somewhat similar to the Qur'an also holds true. It does not contradict the earlier challenges, but this is the easiest of all the challenges posed by the Qur'an. If the last challenge cannot be fulfilled, the question of anyone fulfilling the other three more difficult challenges does not arise.

Suppose I speak about a person that he is so dumb, that he would not be able to pass the 10th standard in school. Later I say that he would not be able to pass the 5th standard, and further say that he would not be able to pass even the 1st standard. Finally I say that he is so dull that he would not even be able to pass K.G. i.e. kindergarten. One has to pass kindergarten before one can be admitted to school. What I am stating is that the person is so dull as to be unable to pass even kindergarten. My four statements do not contradict each other, but my last statement i.e. the person would not be able to pass the kindergarten is sufficient to indicate the intelligence of that person. If a person cannot even pass kindergarten, the question of him passing the first standard or 5th or 10th, does not arise.

3. Gradual prohibition of intoxicants

Another example of such verses is that related to gradual prohibition of intoxicants. The first revelation of the Qur'an to deal with intoxicants was the following verse from Surah Baqarah:

"They ask thee concerning wine and gambling say: 'In them is great sin, and some profit, for men; but the sin is greater than the profit'." [Al-Qur'an 2:219]

The next verse to be revealed regarding intoxicants is the following verse from Surah Nisa: "O ye who believe! approach not prayers with a mind befogged, until ye can understand all that ye say" [Al-Qur'an 4:43]

The last verse to be revealed regarding intoxicants was the following verse from Surah Al-Maidah:"O ye who believe! intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination of Satan's handiwork; eschew such (abomination), that ye may prosper." [Al-Qur'an 5:90]

The Qur'an was revealed over a period of 22½ years. Many reforms that were brought about in the society were gradual. This was to facilitate the adoption of new laws by the people. An abrupt change in society always leads to rebellion and anarchy.

The prohibition of intoxicants was revealed in three stages. The first revelation only mentioned that in the intoxicants there is great sin and some profit but the sin is greater than the profit. The next revelation prohibited praying in an intoxicated state, indicating that one should not consume intoxicants during the day, since a Muslim has to pray five times a day. This verse does state that when one is not praying at night one is allowed to consume intoxicants. It means one may have or one may not have. The Qur'an does not comment on it. If this verse had mentioned that one is allowed to have intoxicants while not praying then there would have been a contradiction. Allah (swt) chose words appropriately. Finally the total prohibition of intoxicants at all times was revealed in Surah Maidah chapter 5 verse 90.

This clearly indicates that the three verses do not contradict each other. Had they been contradicting, it would not have been possible to follow all the three verses simultaneously. Since a Muslim is expected to follow each and every verse of the Qur'an, only by following the last verse i.e. of Surah Maidah (5:90), he simultaneously agrees and follows the previous two verses.

Suppose I say that I do not live in Los Angeles. Later I say that I do not live in California. Finally I say, I do not live in the United States of America. This does not imply that these three statements contradict each other. Each statement gives more information than the previous statement. The third statement includes the information contained in the first two statements. Thus, only by saying that I do not live in the United States of America, it is obvious, that I also do not live in California nor New York. Similarly since consuming alcohol is totally prohibited, it is obvious that praying in an

intoxicated state is also prohibited and the information that in intoxicants is "great sin and some profit for men; but the sin is greater than profit" also holds true.

4. <u>Qur'an does not contain any contradictions</u>

The theory of abrogation does not imply that there is a contradiction in the Qur'an, since it is possible to follow all the verses of the Qur'an at the same time.

If there is a contradiction in the Qur'an, then it cannot be the word of Allah (swt).

"Do they not consider the Qur'an (with care)? Had it been from other than Allah, they would surely have found therein much discrepancy (contradictions)."

[Al-Qur'an 4:82]

Question: Why do certain Surahs in the Qur'an begin with Alif Laam Meem, Haa Meem, Yaa Seen. What is the significance of such terms or phrases?

Answer:

1. <u>Abbreviated Letters</u>

Alif Laam Meem, Ya Seen, Ha Meem', etc. are known as *Al-Muqattaat* i.e. the abbreviated letters. There are 29 letters in the Arabic Alphabet (if *hamza* and *alif* are considered as two letters) and there are 29 *surahs* i.e. chapters in the Glorious Qur'an that have the abbreviated letters prefixed to them. These abbreviated letters some times occur alone, sometimes in a combination of two letters and sometimes in a combination of three, four or five letters.

a. Three surahs are pre-fixed with only one letter:

(i) Surah Sad chapter 38 with *Sad*
(ii) Surah Qaf chapter 50 with *Qaf*
(iii) Surah Nun or Qalam chapter 68 with *Nun*

b. The combination of two letters occurs in 10 surahs:

Three of them occur only once each:

(i) Surah Ta Ha chapter 20 has *Ta Ha*
(ii) Surah Al Naml starting with chapter 27 has *Ta Seen*

(iii) Surah Ya Seen chapter 36 has *Ya Seen*

Ha Meem occurs in seven consecutive *Surahs* from Surah 40 to Surah 46:

(i) Surah Ghafir or Al-Mu'min chapter 40
(ii) Surah Fussilat or Ha Meem chapter 41
(iii) Surah Al Shura chapter 42
(iv) Surah Al Zukhruf chapter 43
(v) Surah Al Dukhan chapter 44
(vi) Surah Al Jathiyah chapter 45
(vii) Surah Al Ahqaf chapter 46

c. There are three combinations of three letters each occurring in 14 surahs.

Alif Laam Meem occurs in six *surahs*

(i) Surah Al Baqarah chapter 2

(ii) Surah Ali 'Imran chapter 3
(iii) Surah Al 'Ankabut chapter 29
(iv) Surah Al Rum chapter 30
(v) Surah Luqman chapter 31
(vi) Surah Al Sajdah chapter 32

Alif Laam Ra occurs in six consecutive surahs: Surah 10 to Surah 15:

(i) Surah Yunus chapter 10
(ii) Surah Hud chapter 11
(iii) Surah Yusuf chapter 12
(iv) Surah Al Rad chapter 13
(v) Surah Ibrahim chapter 14
(vi) Surah Al Hijr chapter 15

Ta Seen Meem occurs in two *Surahs*:

(i) Surah Al-Shura chapter 26
(ii) Surah Al-Qasas chapter 28

d. Combination of four letters occurs twice:

(i) Surah Aaraf chapter 7: *Alif Laam Meem Sad*
(ii) Surah Anfal chapter 8: *Alif Laam Meem Ra*

e. Combination of five letters occurs twice:

(i) Surah Maryam chapter 19 begins with *Kaf Ha Ya Ayn Sad*
(ii) Surah Al-Shura chapter 42 begins with *Ha Meem Ayn Seen Qaf*

Surah Al-Shura chapter 42 has a double combination of abbreviated letters

one set of two letters followed by one set of three letters.

2. <u>Meanings of these abbreviated letters</u>

The meaning and purpose of these letters is uncertain. There have been a variety of explanations offered by Muslim scholars through the ages. A few among them are:

i. These letters might be abbreviations for certain sentences and words for instance, *Alif Laam Meem* means *Ana-Alahu -a'Laam* or *Nun* meaning *Noor* (light), etc.
ii. These letters are not abbreviations but symbols and names of Allah or something else.
iii. These letters were used for rhyming.
iv. These letters have some numerical significance as the semitic letters also have numerical values.
v. These letters were used to attract the attention of the Prophet (and later his audience).

Several volumes have been written on the significance of these abbreviations.

3. <u>Best explanation of abbreviated letters:</u>

Of all the explanations given by various scholars, the one which is authentic and also supported by *Tafsir* of Ibne-Kathir, Zamakshari and Ibne-Taiymiyah is the following:

The human body is composed of various fundamental elements that are found in nature. Clay and dust are composed of the same fundamental elements. Yet it would be absurd to say that a human being is exactly the same as the dust.

We can all have access to the elements that are found in the human body, and add a few gallons of water, which is the constitution of the human body. We know the elements in the human body and yet we are at a loss when asked the secret of life.

Similarly the Qur'an addresses those people who reject its Divine authority. It tells them that this Qur'an, is in your own language, and over which the Arabs took pride. It is composed of the same letters that the Arabs used to express themselves most eloquently.

The Arabs were very proud of their language and Arabic was at its peak when the Qur'an was revealed. With the letters *Alif Laam Meem, Yaa Seen, Ha-Meem*, etc., (in Engllish we would say A, B, C, D) the Qur'an challenges mankind to produce a *Surah* at least somewhat similar to the Qur'an in

beauty and elegance, if they doubt its authenticity.

Initially, the Qur'an challenges all the men and jinn to produce a recital like the Qur'an and adds that they would not be able to do it even if they backed each other. This challenge is mentioned in Surah Isra chapter 17 verse 88 and in Surah Tur chapter 52 verse 34.

Later the Qur'an repeats the challenge in Surah Hud chapter 11 verse 13 by saying produce ten *surahs* like it and later in Surah Yunus chapter 10 verse 38 produce one surah like it and finally the easiest challenge is given in Surah Al-Baqarah chapter 2 verses 23 and 24.

"And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a *Surah* like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah if your doubts are true.

But if ye cannot – and of a surety ye cannot – then fear the fire whose fuel is men and stones – which is prepared for those who reject faith." [Al-Qur'an 2:23-24]

To compare the skill of two artisans, they must be given samples of the same raw material and their performance evaluated in performing the same task. If they are tailors they must be provided with the same fabrics. The raw materials of the Arabic language are these letters *Alif Laam Meem, Ya Seen* (in English it is A, B, C, D, etc.) The miraculous nature of the language of the Qur'an does not lie only in the fact that it is the Word of Allah, but also in the fact that although made up of the same letters in which the pagan Arabs took pride, it has not been rivalled.

The Arabs are noted for their rhetoric ability, eloquence and meaningful expression. Just as the constituents of the human body are known to us and can be obtained by us, the letters comprising the Qur'an, such as Alif Laam Meem are known to us, and used frequently to formulate words. Life cannot be created by us, even if we possess knowledge of the constituents of the human body. Similarly we cannot capture the same eloquence and beauty of expression that we find in the Qur'an, despite knowing the letters that constitute the Qu'ran. The Qur'an thus proves its Divine origin.

4. <u>Miraculous quality of Qur'an mentioned immediately after these broken letters</u>

Therefore immediately after these broken letters are mentioned in the Qur'an, the following verses speak about the miracle of the Qur'an, and its authority e.g. in Surah Baqarah Chapter 2 verse 1-2:

"*Alif Laam Meem.*

This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah."
[Al-Qur’an 2:1-2]

Question: Qur’an says that Allah has made the earth for you as a carpet. This gives an indication that the earth is flat. Does this not contradict established modern science?

Answer

1. <u>Earth made as a carpet</u>

The question refers to a verse from the Qur’an in Surah Nuh:

"And Allah has made the earth for you as a carpet (spread out)." [Al-Qur’an 71:19]

But the sentence in the above verse is not complete. It continues in the next verse, explaining the previous verse. It says:

"That ye may go about therein, in spacious roads."
[Al-Qur’an 71:20]

A similar message is repeated in Surah TaHa:

"He Who has made for you the earth like a carpet spread out; has enabled you to go about therein by roads (and channels)...." [Al-Qur’an 20:53]

The surface of the earth i.e. earth’s crust is less than 30 miles in thickness and is very thin as compared to the radius of the earth which is about 3750 miles. The deeper layers of the earth are very hot, fluid and hostile to any form of life. The earth’s crust is a solidified shell on which we can live. The Qur’an rightly refers to it like a carpet spread out, so that we can travel along its roads and paths.

2. <u>Carpet can also be spread on other than an absolute flat surface</u>

Not a single verse of the Qur’an says that the earth is flat. The Qur’an only compares the earth’s crust with a carpet. Some people seem to think that carpet can only be put on an absolute flat surface. It is possible to spread a carpet on a large sphere such as the earth. It can easily be demonstrated by taking a huge model of the earth’s globe covering it with a carpet.

Carpet is generally put on a surface, which is not very comfortable to walk

on. The Qur’an describes the earth crust as a carpet, without which human beings would not be able to survive because of the hot, fluid and hostile environment beneath it. The Qur’an is thus not only logical, it is mentioning a scientific fact that was discovered by geologists centuries later.

3. <u>Earth has been spread out</u>

Similarly, the Qur’an says in several verses that the earth has been spread out.

"And We have spread out the (spacious) earth: how excellently We do spread out!"
[Al-Qur’an 51:48]

Similarly the Qur’an also mentions in several other verses that the earth is an expanse:

"Have We not made the earth as a wide expanse"
"And the mountains as pegs?"
[Al-Qur’an 78:6-7]

None of these verses of the Qur’an contain even the slightest implication that the earth is flat. It only indicates that the earth is spacious and the reason for this spaciousness of the earth is mentioned. The Glorious Qur’an says:

"O My servants who believe! truly. spacious is My Earth: therefore serve ye Me –(And Me alone)!"
[Al-Qur’an 29:56]

Therefore none can give the excuse, that he could not do good and was forced to do evil because of the surroundings and circumstances.

4. <u>Earth is geospherical in shape</u>

The Qur’an mentions the actual shape of the earth in the following verse:

"And we have made the earth egg shaped".
[Al-Qur’an 79:30]

The Arabic word *Dahaha* means egg shaped. It also means an expanse. *Dahaha* is derived from *Duhiya* which specifically refers to the egg of an ostrich which is geospherical in shape, exactly like the shape of the earth.

Thus the Qur’an and modern established science are in perfect harmony.

Question: The Qur’an says that only Allah knows the sex of the child in the womb of the mother but now science has advanced and we can easily determine the sex of the child in the womb by ultrasonography. Isn’t this

verse of the Qur'an conflicting with medical science?

Answer:

Allah is Omnipotent and Omniscient. Allah has granted knowledge of certain things to humankind. But Allah has knowledge of the seen as well as the unseen.

1. <u>Allah has knowledge of all things</u>

Many people believe that the Qur'an claims that Allah alone knows the sex of the child in the mother's womb. The Glorious Qur'an says:

"Verily the knowledge of the Hour is with Allah (alone). It is He who sends down Rain, and He who knows what is in the wombs…." [Al-Qur'an 31:34]

A similar message is given in the following verse:

"Allah doth know what every female (womb) doth bear,
By how much the wombs fall short (of their time or number) or do exceed.
Every single thing is before His sight, in (due) proportion." [Al-Qur'an 13:8]

2. <u>Sex can be determined by Ultrasonography</u>

Today science has advanced and we can easily determine the sex of the child in the womb of a pregnant mother, using ultrasonography.

3. <u>The word 'sex' is not mentioned in the verse of the Qur'an</u>

It is true that many translations and commentaries of this verse of the Glorious Qur'an say that only Allah knows the sex of the child in the mother's womb. If you read the Arabic text of this verse, there is no Arabic word corresponding to the English word 'sex'. In fact the Qur'an says the knowledge of what is in the womb is with Allah alone. Many commentators have misunderstood it to mean only Allah knows the sex of the child in the womb, which is a mistake.

4. <u>No one besides Allah can determine the nature of the child</u>

This verse does not refer to the sex of the child in the womb but it refers to, how the child in the mother's womb will be. How will his nature be? Will he be a blessing or a curse to his parents? Will he be a boon or a bane to the society? Will he be good or evil? Will he go to heaven or hell? The complete knowledge of all things is with Allah alone. No scientist in the world, no matter how advanced his equipment, will ever be able to accurately

determine the knowledge of these things about the child in the mother's womb.

Question: According to the Qur'an when a man enters paradise, he will get hoor, i.e. beautiful maidens. What will a woman have when she enters paradise?

Answer:

1. *Hoor* mentioned in the Qur'an

The word *hoor* occurs in the Qur'an in no less than four different places:

(1) In Surah Dukhan chapter 44, verse 54

"Moreover, We shall join them to companions
With beautiful, big and lustrous eyes."
[Al-Qur'an 44:54]

(2) In Surah Al-Tur chapter 52 verse 20

"...And We shall join them to companions, with beautiful,
big and lustrous eyes."
[Al-Qur'an 52:20]

(3) In Surah Rahman chapter 55 verse 72

"Companions restrained (as to their glances), in goodly pavilions." [Al-Qur'an 55:72]

(4) In Surah Al-Waqiah chapter 56 verse 22

"And (there will be) companions with beautiful, big and lustrous eyes." [Al-Qur'an 56:22]

2. *Hoor* Translated as Beautiful Maidens

Many translators of the Qur'an have translated the word *hoor* as 'beautiful maidens' especially in the Urdu translations. If *hoor* means 'beautiful maidens' or girls, then they are meant only for the men. Hence, what will the women get if they enter Paradise?

3. Meaning of *Hoor*

The word *hoor* is actually the plural of *ahwar* (applicable to man) and of *haura* (applicable to woman) and signifies a person having eyes characterized by *hauar* a special quality bestowed upon a good soul, male or

female in paradise and it denotes the intense whiteness of the white part of the spiritual eye.

The Qur'an describes in several other verses that in paradise you will have *azwaj* which mean a pair or spouse or companion which means you will have spouses or companions pure and holy (*mutaharratun* means pure, holy).

"But give glad tidings to those who believe and work righteousness, that their portion is gardens, beneath which rivers flow. Every time they are fed with fruits therefrom, they say: "Why, this is what we were fed with before", for they are given things in similitude; and they have therein companions pure (and holy); and they abide therein (forever)". [Al-Qur'an 2:25]

"But those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, We shall soon admit to Gardens, with rivers flowing beneath – their eternal home; therein shall they have companions pure and holy: we shall admit them to shades, cool and ever deepening". [Al-Qur'an 4:57]

Therefore the word *hoor* has no specific gender. Mohammad Asad has translated the word *hoor* as spouse and Abdullah Yusuf Ali as companion. Therefore according to some scholars a man in paradise will have a *hoor* that is a beautiful maiden with beautiful big and lustrous eyes and a woman in paradise will get a man with beautiful big and lustrous eyes.

4. <u>Women will get something exceptional in Paradise</u>

Many scholars say that in context, the word *hoor* used in the Qur'an refers only to ladies since gents are addressed. A reply that would be accepted by all types of people would rather be the answer given in the Hadith when a similar question was posed that if a man gets a *hoor*, a beautiful Maiden in Paradise, then what will the women get? The reply was that the women will get that which the heart has not desired for, the ear hasn't heard off and the eye hasn't seen, indicating that even the women will get something exceptional in Paradise.

Question: The Qur'an says that Allah has put a seal on the hearts of the Kuffar and they will not believe. Science tells us today that the brain is responsible for understanding and believing and not the heart. Isn't the Qur'an contradicting Science?

Answer:

1. <u>Allah has set a seal on the heart of the *Kuffar*</u>

The Glorious Qur'an says:

"As to those who reject Faith it is the same to them
Whether thou warn them or do not warn them;
They will not believe.
"Allah hath set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing and on their eyes is a veil
Great is the penalty they incur."
[Al-Qur'an 2:6-7]

2. <u>The word *qalb* in Arabic means heart as well as intelligence</u>

The Arabic word *qalb* used in these verses means the heart. It also means intelligence. Thus the above verses also mean that Allah has put a seal on the intelligence of the *kuffaars* (unbelievers) and they will not understand and believe.

3. <u>In the Arabic language heart is also used as a centre of understanding</u>

In the Arabic language the word 'heart' is also used to connote one's centre of understanding.

4. <u>Several words used in English language whose literal meaning is different</u>

Even in English language there are several words which are used to explain something, though the literal meaning of these words are different. Consider the following examples

a. Lunatic - Struck by the moon:

The word 'lunatic' literally means struck by the moon. Today people use the word lunatic for a person who is insane or mentally unstable. People very well know that a mad or a mentally unstable person is not struck by the moon. Yet even a medical doctor uses this word. This is normal in the evolution of a language.

b. Disaster – An evil star

The word 'disaster' literally means an evil star. Today the word disaster is used for a great or sudden misfortune or calamity. We know very well that a misfortune has nothing to do with an evil star.

c. Trivial – Three roads meet

The word 'trivial' literally means where three roads meet. Today the

word 'trivial' is used for something of small nature or little importance. We know very well that if something is of small value it has nothing to do with where three roads meet.

d. Sunrise and Sunset

'Sunrise' literally means rising of the sun. Today when the word 'sunrise' is used most of the people know that the earth is rotating and is moving in relation to the sun. Most of us know that the sun does not rise during sunrise. However even an astronomer uses the word 'sunrise'. Similarly we know that during sunset, the sun does not actually set.

5. <u>In the English language heart is the centre of love and emotion</u>

In the English language heart means an organ in the body which pumps blood. The same word heart is also used for the centre of thought, love and emotion. Today we know that brain is the centre of thought, love and emotion. Yet while expressing emotions a person is likely to say "I love you from the bottom of my heart". Imagine a scientist telling his wife, "I love you from the bottom of my heart" and the wife replies, "Don't you even know the basics of science, that the brain is responsible for the emotions and not the heart? In fact you should say I love you from the bottom of my brain."

6. <u>Arabs know that the word heart in Arabic is also used for centre of thought and understanding</u>

No Arab will ever ask the question as to why Allah has sealed the hearts of the *kafir* because he knows that in this context it refers to the centre of thought, understanding and emotions.

Question: If Allah has sealed the hearts of the Kuffar i.e. non-Muslims, then why are they to be blamed for not accepting Islam?

Answer:

1. <u>Allah has sealed the hearts of those who are continuously bent on rejecting the truth</u>

Allah (swt) mentions in Surah Al Baqarah chapter 2 verses 6 and 7

"As to those who reject Faith, it is the same to them Whether thou warn them or do not warn them; they will not believe.

Allah hath set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing, and on their eyes is a veil; great is the penalty they (incur)." [Al-Qur'an 2:6-7]

These verses do not refer to common *Kuffar* who reject faith. The Arabic words used are *al-lazina kafaroo*, those who are bent on rejecting the truth. It will not make any difference to such people whether you warn them or not, they will not believe. Allah has set a seal on their hearts and on their hearing and on their eyes is a veil. It is not because Allah has set a seal on their hearts that these *kuffar* do not understand and believe, but it is the vice-versa. It is because these *kuffar* are bent on rejecting the truth and whether you warn them or not they will not believe, that Allah has set a seal on their hearts. Therefore Allah is not to blame, but these *kuffaar* who are bent on rejecting the faith are responsible.

2. <u>Example of teacher predicting a student will fail</u>

Suppose an experienced teacher, before the final examinations, predicts that a particular student will fail in the exams, since the student is very mischievous, not attentive in class and does not do his homework. If after the student appears for the examination, he fails, who is to be blamed for the student failing: the teacher or the student? Just because the teacher predicted, it does not mean that the teacher is to be blamed but the student himself is responsible for his failure.

Similarly Allah (swt) knows in advance that there are some people who are bent on rejecting the faith and Allah has put a seal on their hearts. Thus these non-Muslims themselves are responsible for rejecting the faith and not Allah (swt).

Question: The Qur'an mentions in several places that the heavens and the earth were created in 6 days but in Surah Fussilat it says that the heavens and the earth were created in 8 days. Isn't this a contradiction? The same verse also says that the earth was created in 6 days and then later on the heavens were created in 2 days. This is against the Big-Bang theory that the heavens and the earth were created simultaneously.

Answer:

1. <u>Heavens and the Earth created in Six days</u>

I do agree that the Qur'an says that the heavens and the earth were created in 6 days i.e. 6 epochs and it is mentioned in

Surah Al A'raf chapter 7 verse 54
Surah Yunus chapter 10 verse 3
Surah Hud chapter 11 verse 7
Surah Al Furqan chapter 25 verse 59
Surah Al Sajdah chapter 32 verse 4
Surah Qaf chapter 50 verse 38
Surah Al Hadid chapter 57 verse 4

The verses of the Qur'an which according to you say that the heavens and the earth were created in 8 days are Surah Fussilat chapter 41 verses 9 to 12

"Say: Is it that ye deny Him Who created the earth in two days? And do ye join equals With him? He is the Lord of (all) the Worlds;

He set on the (earth) mountains standing firm, High above it, and bestowed blessings on the earth, and measured therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion, In four days, in accordance with (the needs of) Those who seek (sustenance)."

Moreover, He Comprehended in His design the sky, and it had been (as) smoke. He said to it and to the earth. "Come ye together, willingly or unwillingly. They said: "We do come (Together), in willing obedience."

So He completed them as seven firmaments in two days and He assigned to each heaven its duty and command and We adorned the lower heaven with lights, and (provided it) with guard. Such is the decree of (Him) the exalted in might, full of knowledge."
[Al-Qur'an 41:9-12]

On the face of it, it seems that these verses of the Qur'an give the initial impression that the heavens and the earth were created in 8 days.

Allah says in the beginning of this verse that those who exploit this information contained in this passage to raise doubts about its authenticity are equally interested in promulgating blasphemy and denying His unity. Allah is telling us that in course of time, there will emerge unbelievers who will make use of this apparent contradiction.

2. <u>Summa means moreover</u>

If you analyse these verses carefully, it speaks about 2 different creations: the earth and the heaven. The earth excluding the mountains was created in 2 days and the mountains were set on the earth standing firm and blessed and measured its sustenance in 4 days. Therefore the earth along with the mountains was created in 6 days according to verse 9 and 10. Verse 11 and 12 says, moreover the heavens were created in 2 days. The Arabic word used

in the beginning of verse 11 of Surah Fussilat is *summa* which means; ‘then’ or ‘moreover’. There are certain Qur’anic translations, which have, used ‘then’ for the word *summa* which, indicates ‘afterwards’. If ‘then’ is wrongly used for *summa* then the total of the creation of heaven and earth will be 8 days which will conflict with other verses of the Qur’an which says heavens and earth were created in 6 days and will also conflict with the Big Bang Theory as well as the verse of the Qur’an Surah Al Ambiya chapter 21 verse 30 which says that heavens and the earth were created simultaneously.

Therefore the correct translation of the word *summa* in this verse would be ‘moreover’. Abdullah Yusuf Ali has rightly translated the word *summa* or moreover which clearly gives an indication that while the earth along with the mountains, etc. was created in 6 days simultaneously the heavens were created in 2 days. Therefore the total does not come to 8 days but 6 days.

If a builder says that he will construct a 10 storey building and surrounding compound wall in 6 months and after completion of his project he gives a more detailed account saying that the basement of the building was built in 2 months and the 10 storeys took 4 months and simultaneously, while the basement and the building was being constructed, he also constructed the surrounding of the building along with the compound wall which took 2 months. Therefore both his first and second descriptions are not contradicting but the second statement gives a more detailed account for the construction.

3. <u>Heavens and the Earth created simultaneously</u>

The Qur’an describe the creation of the universe in several places, sometimes it says the heavens and the earth (7:54, 10:3, 11:7, 25:59, 32:4, 50:38, 57:4) while in other places it says earth and the heaven (49:9-12, 2:29, 20:4) thus further supplementing the verse of Surah Al Ambiya chapter 21 verse 30 which speaks about the Big-Bang and that the heavens and the earth were created simultaneously.

Similarly in Surah Al-Baqara chapter 2 verse 29

"It is He Who hath created for you all things that are on earth; Then He turned to the heaven and made them into seven firmaments. And of all things He hath perfect knowledge."
[Al-Qur’an 2:29] "It is who has created for you all things on the earth *summa* simultaneously made the heaven into seven firmaments".

Here also if you wrongly translate *summa* as ‘then’ only then would this verse contradict the Big-bang theory and other verses of the Qur’an. Therefore the correct translation of the word *summa* is ‘moreover’ or

‘simultaneously’.

Question: At one place the Qur’an mentions that man is created from sperm and in another place it mentions that man is created from dust. Are these two verses not contradicting? How can you scientifically prove that man is created from dust?

Answer:

1. <u>Man created from sperm and dust</u>

The Qur’an refers to the lowly beginnings of a human being from a drop of sperm, in several verses including the following verse from Surah Al-Qiyamah:

"Was he not a drop of sperm emitted (in lowly form)"? [Al-Qur’an 75:37]

The Qur’an also mentions in several places that human beings were created from dust. The following verse makes a reference to the origin of human beings:

"(Consider) that We created you out of dust".
[Al-Qur’an 22:5]

We now know that all the elements present in the human body (i.e. the constituent elements of the human body), are all present in the earth in small or great quantities. This is the scientific explanation for the Qur’anic verse that says that man was created from dust.

In certain verses, the Qur’an says that man was created from sperm, while in certain other verses it says that man was created from dust. However this is not a contradiction. Contradiction means statements, which are opposite or conflicting and both cannot be true simultaneously.

2. <u>Man created from water</u>

In certain places the Qur’an also says that man was created from water. For instance in Surah Al-Furqan it says:

"It is He Who has created man from water".
[Al-Qur’an 25:54]

Science has proved all the three statements to be correct. Man has been created from sperm, dust as well as water.

3. It is not a Contradiction but a Contradistinction

Suppose I say that in order to make a cup of tea one needs water. One also needs tea-leaves or tea powder. The two statements are not contradictory since both water and tea leaves are required in order to make a cup of tea. Furthermore if I want sweet tea I can even add sugar.

Thus there is no contradiction in the Qur'an when it says that man is created from sperm, dust and water. It is not a contradiction but a contradistinction. Contradistinction means speaking about two different concepts on the same subject without conflict. For instance if I say that the man is always truthful and a habitual liar, it is a contradiction, but if I say that a man is always honest, kind and loving, then it is a contradistinction.

Question: It is mentioned in one verse of the Qur'an that Allah is the Lord of two Easts and two Wests. How can you explain this verse of the Qur'an scientifically?

Answer:

1. Qur'an mentions Allah is the Lord of two Easts and two Wests

The verse of the Qur'an which refers to Allah being the Lord of two easts and two wests is the following verse from Surah Ar-Rahman:

"(He is) Lord of the two Easts and Lord of the two Wests:" [Al-Qur'an 55:17]

In the original Arabic script, the words east and west have been used in the dual form. It implies that Allah is the Lord of two easts and two wests.

2. Allah is the Lord of both the extremes of East and West

The science of geography tells us that the sun rises from the east, but the point of sunrise keeps shifting throughout the year. Only on two days of the year known as 'equinox', does the sun rise exactly from due east. On the remaining days, it rises either from a little north or a little south of due east. During summer solstice the sun rises from one extreme of the east and during winter solstice it rises from the other extreme. Similarly, the sun sets in one extreme of the west in summer solstice. It sets in the other extreme of the west in winter solstice. This phenomenon can be easily seen in Bombay or any other city, by people living in certain areas, or in tall skyscraper buildings, from where the rising or setting of sun can be seen. They are able to notice that during the summer solstice the sun rises from one extreme of

east and during winter solstice it rises from the other extreme of east. In short, through out the year, the sun keeps rising from different points of the east and sets on different points of the west. Thus when the Qur'an refers to Allah as the Lord of two easts and two wests, it means that Allah is the Lord of both the extremes of east and both the extremes of west.

3. <u>Allah is the Lord of all the points of the East and West</u>

Arabic language has two types of plurals. One is the dual plural i.e. the plural that implies the existence of two. The other is the plural for more than two, i.e. three and above. In Surah Rahman verse 17 the Arabic words used are *mashriqaini* and *magribaini* which are in dual plural and therefore imply two easts and two wests.

Consider the following verse of the Qur'an:
"Now I do call to witness the Lord of all points in the East and the West."
[Al-Qur'an 70:40]

The Arabic words for east and west used in this verse are *mashaariqi* and *magharibi'* which are plurals that imply the existence of more than two.

We can thus conclude that the Qur'an refers to Allah being the Lord of all the points in the east and all the points of the west, as well as the Lord of both the extreme points of east and both the extreme points of west.

Question: A particular verse of the Qur'an says that one day in the sight of Allah is equal to 1000 years. In another verse of the Qur'an it says that one day is equal to 50,000 years. Isn't the Qur'an contradicting itself?

Answer:

1. <u>Time of Allah is incomparable to earthly time</u>

The Qur'an says in two verses, (22:47 and 32:5), that the measure of one day in the sight of Allah is equal to 1,000 years of our reckoning. In another verse (70:4) it says that the measure of one day in the sight of Allah is equal to 50,000 years of our reckoning.

These verses generally mean that the time of Allah (swt) is incomparable to the earthly time. The examples given are of one thousand years and fifty thousand years of the earthly time. In other words thousands of years or a very, very long time of the earth a day in the sight of Allah is equal to:

2. <u>*Yaum* also means Period</u>

The Arabic word used in all these three verses is *yaum*, which, besides meaning a day also means a long period, or an epoch. If you translate the word *yaum* correctly as 'period' there will be no confusion.

a) The verse from Surah Hajj reads as:

"Yet they ask thee to hasten on the Punishment! but Allah will not fail in His promise. Verily a Day in the sight of thy Lord is like a thousand years of your reckoning".

[Al-Qur'an 22:47]

When the unbelievers asked to hasten the punishment the Qur'an says Allah will not fail in His promise. Verily a period in the sight of Allah is like a thousand years of your reckoning.

b) The verse from Surah Al-Sajdah says:

"He rules (all) affairs from the heavens to the earth: in the end will (all affairs) go up? To Him, on a Day, the space whereof will be (as) a thousand years of your reckoning".

[Al-Qur'an 32:5]

This verse indicates that a period required for all the affairs to go up to Allah (swt), is a thousand years of our reckoning.

c) A verse from Surah Al-Maarij says:

"The angels and the spirit ascend unto Him in a Day the measure whereof is (as) fifty thousand years".
[Al-Qur'an 70:4]

This verse means that the period required for angels and the spirits to ascend unto Allah (swt) is fifty thousand years.

d) The period for two different acts need not be the same. For example the period required for me to travel to destination 'A' say Vashi is one hour and the period required for me to travel to destination 'B' i.e. Kashmir is 50 hours. This does not indicate that I am making two contradictory statements.

Thus the verses of the Qur'an not only do not contradict each other, they are also in perfect harmony with established modern scientific facts.

Question: The Qur'an in several places says that Iblis was an angel, but in Surah Kahf it says that Iblis was a Jinn. Isn't this a contradiction in the Qur'an?

Answer:

1. <u>Incidence of *Iblis* and Angels mentioned in the Qur'an</u>

The story of Adam and *Iblis* is mentioned in the Qur'an in various places in which Allah (swt) says, "We said to the angels bow down to Adam: and they bowed down: not so *Iblis*".

This is mentioned in:

Surah Al Baqarah chapter 2 verse 43
Surah Al 'Araf chapter 7 verse 17
Surah Al Hijr chapter 15 verses 28-31
Surah Al Isra chapter 17 verse 61
Surah Ta Ha chapter 20 verse 116
Surah Sad chapter 38 verses 71-74

But in Surah Al Kahf chapter 18 verse 50 the Qur'an says:

"Behold! We said to the angels, "Bow down to Adam." they bowed down except *Iblis* He was one of the *Jinns*."
[Al-Qur'an 18:50]

2. <u>Arabic Rule Of *Tagleeb*</u>

The English translation of the first part of the verse 'We said to the angels bow down to Adam: they bowed down except *Iblis'*, gives us the impression that *Iblis* was an angel. The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic. In Arabic grammar there is a rule known as Tagleeb, according to which, if the majority is addressed, even the minority is included. If for example, I address a class containing 100 students of whom 99 are boys and one is a girl, and if I say in Arabic that the boys should stand up, it includes the girl as well. I need not mention her seperately.

Similarly in the Qur'an, when Allah addressed the angels, even *Iblis* was present, but it is not required that he be mentioned separately. Therefore according to that sentence *Iblis* may be an angel or may not be an angel, but we come to know from Surah Al Kahf chapter 18 verse 50 that *Iblis* was a *Jinn*. No where does the Qur'an say *Iblis* was an angel. Therefore there is no contradiction in the Qur'an.

3. <u>Jinns have free will and can disobey Allah</u>

Secondly, *Jinns* have a free will and may or may not obey Allah, but angels have no free will and always obey Allah. Therefore the question of an angel disobeying Allah does not arise. This further supplements that *Iblis* was a *Jinn* and not an angel.

Question: According to Arun Shourie there is a mathematical error in the Qur’an. In chapter 4 verses 11 and 12 when you add up the different parts of inheritance given to the heirs, it is more than one. Therefore the author of the Qur’an does not know mathematics.

Answer:

The Qur’an mentions about inheritance in many places, in

Surah Al Baqarah chapter 2 verse 180
Surah Al Baqarah chapter 2 verse 240
Surah Al Nisa chapter 4 verses 7 to 9
Surah Al Nisa chapter 4 verses19 and 33
Surah Al Ma‘idah chapter 5 verses 105 and 108

Regarding the share of inheritance it is clearly given in Surah Nisa chapter 4 verse 11, 12 and 176.

Let us examine the verses quoted by Arun Shourie, i.e. Surah Nisa chapter 4 verses 11 and 12:

"Allah (swt) (thus) directs you as regards your children’s(inheritance): to the male, a portion equal to that of two females: if only daughters, two or more, their share is two-thirds of the inheritance; if only one, her share is a half.

For parents, a sixth share of the inheritance to each, if the deceased left children; if no children, and the parents are the (only) heirs, the mother has a third; if the deceased left brothers (or sisters) the mother has a sixth. (The distribution in all cases is) after the payment of legacies and debts. Ye know not whether your parents or your children are nearest to you in benefit. These are settled portions ordained by Allah; and Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise."

"In what your wives leave, your share is a half, if they leave no child; but if they leave child, ye get a fourth; after payment of legacies and debts. In what ye leave, their share is a fourth, if ye leave no child; but if ye leave a child, they get an eighth; after payment of legacies and debts." [Al-Qur’an 4:11-12]

Islam explains the law of inheritance in great detail. The broad and basic outline is given in the Qur’an and the minute details are given in the *Ahadith* i.e. the tradition and sayings of the Prophet (pbuh).

A person can spend his full life only on the research of the Islamic law of

inheritance with its various permutations and combinations. Arun Shourie expects to know the law only by superficially reading two verses of the Qur'an without knowing the criteria.

It is similar to a person who wants to solve a mathematical equation but does not know the basic rule of mathematics, i.e. BODMAS which says that in a mathematical equation, irrespective of which mathematical sign appears first, you will first solve BODMAS: 1st Brackets Off, 2nd Division, 3rd Multiplication, 4th Addition and 5th Subtraction. If Arun Shourie does not know mathematics and first does multiplication then subtraction, then brackets off, then division and finally addition, the answer that he will obtain is bound to be wrong.

Similarly, when the Qur'an mentions the law of inheritance in Surah Nisa chapter 4 verses 11 and 12, even though the children's share is mentioned first and then that of the parents and spouses, according to the law of inheritance in Islam after paying off the debts and liabilities first, the share is given to the spouses and the parents depending on whether the deceased has left children or not, and whatever portion of wealth is remaining is divided between the sons and the daughters according to their respective shares.

So where does the question arise of the total coming to more than one? So it is not Allah who does not know mathematics but it is Arun Shourie himself who is ignorant about mathematics.

Question: The Qur'an says several times that Allah is most Merciful and Forgiving but also says many times that He gives severe punishment. Is He Forgiving or Revengeful?

Answer:

1. Allah is most Merciful

The Qur'an says several times that Allah is the most Merciful. In fact all the 114 Surahs i.e. chapters of the Glorious Qur'an except for Surah Taubah chapter 9, begin with the beautiful formula, *Bismillah-hir-Rahman-nir-Rahim*, which means, "In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful".

2. Allah is Forgiving

The Glorious Qur'an mentions in several verses including Surah Nisa, chapter 4 verse 25 and Surah Maidah, chapter 5 verse 74:

"And Allah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

3. Allah gives severe punishment to the deserving

Allah besides being Merciful and Forgiving is also strict in giving punishment to the deserving. The Qur’an mentions in several verses that Allah will give severe punishment to the unbelievers and rejecters of faith. He will give punishment to all those who disobey Him. Several verses of the Qur’an describe the various types of severe punishment that Allah will give in hell to all those who disobey.

"Those who reject our Signs, we shall soon cast into the Fire; as often as their skins

Are roasted through, we shall change them for fresh skins, that they may taste the penalty: for Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise". [Al-Qur’an 4:56]

4. Allah is Just

The question is, whether Allah is forgiving or revengeful? An important point to be noted is that Allah besides being Merciful and Forgiving, He also has to give severe punishment to the deserving wicked or evil people, because He is also Just. The Qur’an mentions in Surah Nisa: "Allah is never unjust in the least degree". [Al-Qur’an 4:40]

It is further mentioned in Surah Al-Anbiya:

"We shall set up scales of justice for the day of Judgement, so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least. And if there be (no more than) the weight of a mustard seed, we will bring it (to account): and enough are we to take account". [Al-Qur’an 21:47]

5. Example: Teacher forgives a student who copies in the examination

If during an examination, a student copies and the teacher who supervises in the examination catches the student red-handed, the teacher says that he is very merciful and kind and forgives him and allows him to continue copying. Those students who have worked hard for the examination will not call the teacher merciful and kind but will call him unjust. This merciful act of the teacher will encourage the other students to also copy. If all the teachers are merciful and kind and allow the students to copy then no student will ever study for examinations and all will pass with flying colours by copying. The theoretical results of the examinations will be excellent in which all the students will pass with first class and distinction but practically

these students will be a failure in life. The whole purpose of the examination would be defeated.

6. **<u>This Life is a Test for the Hereafter</u>**

The life in this world is a test for the Hereafter. The Qur'an says in Surah Al Mulk: "He who created Death and Life, that He may try which of you is best in deed; and He is the Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving". [Al-Qur'an 67:2]

7. **<u>If Allah forgives all and punishes none, who will obey him?</u>**

If Allah (swt) forgives each and every human being and punishes no one, then why should the human beings obey the command of Allah (swt)? I do agree that no one will go to hell, but this world would become hell to live in. If all human beings are going to go to heaven then what is the purpose and use of the human beings to come to this world, this life cannot be called a test for the hereafter.

8. **<u>Allah only forgives if a person repents</u>**

Allah (swt) only forgives if a person repents. The Qur'an says in Surah Al-Zumar, chapter 39 verse 53-55:

"Say: 'O my servants who have transgressed against their souls! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah: for Allah forgives all sins for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

"Turn ye to your Lord (in repentance) and bow to His (will), before the penalty comes on you - after that ye shall not be helped."

"And follow the best of (the courses) revealed to you from your Lord, before the penalty comes on you - of a sudden, while ye perceive not!" [Al-Qur'an 39:53-55]

There are four criteria for repentance: First, agree that the act is wrong. Secondly, stop it immediately. Thirdly, never do it again in future. And lastly, compensate for the loss if caused to anyone.

What is the best way to convert a Christian to Islam?

By: Mr. Ossama Abdallah

http://www.answering-christianity.com/convert_christians.htm

1- I'd first prove to them that trinity is a man-made lie. See Answering Trinity section where every single so-called "Trinitarian verse" in the Bible is refuted.

http://www.answering-christianity.com/at.htm

2- Then, I'd prove to them that the Bible is corrupted and altered by the Church and men.

The Muslims must first of all know that the entire Bible is corrupted and unreliable and is mostly filled with man-made laws and corruption! "`How can you say, "We [the Jews] are wise, for we have the law of the LORD," when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?' (From the NIV Bible, Jeremiah 8:8)"

The Revised Standard Version makes even clearer: "How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes **has made it into a lie**. (From the RSV Bible, Jeremiah 8:8)"

In either translation, we clearly see that the Jews had so much corrupted the Bible with their man-made cultural laws, that they had turned the Bible into a lie!

See Also Deuteronomy 31:25-29 where Moses peace be upon him predicted the corruption/tampering of the Law (Bible) after his death.

The Book of Moses predicted that the Law (Bible) will get corrupted. The Book of Jeremiah which came approximately 826 years after did indeed confirm this corruption.

http://www.answering-christianity.com/contra.htm

3- Then, I'd show them what parts of the Bible do Muslims believe are closest to the Truth, and why?

http://www.answering-christianity.com/warning.htm

4- Then, I'd prove to them that Muhammad (PBUH) and the Religion of Islam were foretold in the Bible.

http://www.answering-christianity.com/predict.htm

5- Then, I'd concentrate on the Oneness of GOD Almighty and stress it out real good to them, because it is the only mean for Salvation -- is to believe in GOD Almighty as the One True Living Undivided GOD and King. http://www.answering-christianity.com/islam.htm

6- I'd then show them the place and status of Jesus, Jews, Christians and non-Muslims in Islam.

http://www.answering-christianity.com/blessed_jesus.htm

7- Last, if they start sharing their personal stories about how GOD Almighty saved them from danger or trouble, and how the Holy Spirit was there for them and inspired them, then I would tell them that Allah Almighty can still love them and have the Holy Spirit guide them and save them from trouble, because He does it all the time even to non-Muslims and non-Christians too, because He is the Most Merciful.

http://www.answering-christianity.com/mercy_of_allah.htm

See also The Holy Spirit in Islam.

http://www.answering-christianity.com/holy_spirit.htm

60 Questions for the Christian

By :Hussein Khalid Al-Hussein

According to most Christians, Jesus was God-incarnate, full man and full God. Can the finite and the infinite be one? "To be full" God means freedom from finite forms and from helplessness, and to be "full man" means the absence of divinity.

1.To be son is to be less than divine and to be divine is to be no one's son. How could Jesus have the attributes of sonship and divinity altogether?

2.Christians assert that Jesus claimed to be God when they quote him in John 14:9: "He that has seen me has seen the Father". Didn't Jesus clearly say that people have never seen God, as it says in John 5:37: "And the father himself which Has sent me, has borne witness of me. You have **NEITHER HEARD HIS VOICE AT ANY TIME NOR SEEN HIS SHAPE"?**

3.Christians say that Jesus was God because he was called Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah, and "savior". Ezekiel was addressed in the Bible as Son of Man. Jesus spoke of "the peace makers" as Sons of God. Any person who followed the Will and Plan of God was called SON OF GOD in the Jewish tradition and in their language (Genesis 6:2,4; Exodus 4:22; Psalm 2:7; Romans 8:14). "Messiah" which in Hebrew means "God's anointed" and not "Christ", and "Cyrus" the person is called "Messiah" or "the anointed". As for "savior", in II KINGS 13:5, other individuals were given that title too without being gods. So where is the proof in these terms that Jesus was God when the word son is not exclusively used for him alone?

4.Christians claim that Jesus acknowledged that he and God were one in the sense of nature when he says in John 10:30 **"I and my father are one".** Later on in

John 17:21-23, Jesus refers to his followers and himself and God as one in five places. So why did they give the previous "one" a different meaning from the other five "ones?

5.Is God three-in-one and one in three simultaneously or one at a time?

6.If God is one and three simultaneously, then none of the three could be the complete God. Granting that such was the case, then when Jesus was on earth, he wasn't a complete God, nor was the "father in Heaven" a whole God. Doesn't that contradict what Jesus always said about His God and our God in heaven, his Lord and our Lord ? Does that also mean that there was no complete god then, between the claimed crucifixion and the claimed resurrection?

7.If God is one and three at a time, then who was the God in heaven when Jesus was on earth? Wouldn't this contradict his many references to a God in Heaven that sent him?

8.If God is three and one at the same time, who was the God in Heaven within three days between the claimed crucifixion and the claimed resurrect ion?

9.Christians say that: "The Father(F) is God, the Son(S) is God, and the Holy Ghost(H) is God, but the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost is not the Father". In simple arithmetic and terms therefore, if F = G, S = G, and H = G, then it follows that F = S = H, while the second part of the statement suggests that F ^{1} S ^{1} H (meaning, "not equal"). Isn't that a contradiction to the Christian dogma of Trinity in itself ? **10.**If Jesus was God, why did he tell the man who called him "good master" not to call him "good" because accordingly, there is none good but his God in Heaven alone? **11**.Why do Christians say that God is three-in-one and one in three when Jesus says in Mark 12:29: "The Lord

our God is one Lord" in as many places as yet in the Bible? **12.**If belief in the Trinity was such a necessary condition for being a Christian, why didn't Jesus teach and emphasize it to the Christians during his time? How were those followers of Jesus considered Christians without ever hearing the term Trinity? Had the Trinity been the spinal cord of Christianity, Jesus would have emphasized it on many occasions and would have taught and explained it in detail to the people.

13. Christians claim that Jesus was God as they quote in John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". This is John speaking and not Jesus. Also, the Greek word for the first occurrence of God is HOTHEOS which means "the God" or "God" with a capital "G", while the Greek word for its second occurrence is "TONTHEOS", which means "a god " or "god" with a small "g". Isn't this dishonesty and inconsistency on the part of those translating the Greek Bible? ? Isn't such quotation in John 1:1 recognized by every Christian scholar of the Bible to have been written by a Jew named Philo Alexandria way before Jesus and John?

14.Wasn't the word "god" or "TONTHEOS" also used to refer to others as well as in II Corinthians 4:4 "(and the Devil is) the god of this world" and in Exodus 7:1 "See , I have made thee (Moses) a god to Pharaoh"?

SALVATION:

Christians say that "GOD LOST His only son to save us". To whom did God lose Jesus if he owns the whole universe?

15. If it was agreeable with God's Majesty to have sons, He could have created a million sons the like of Jesus. So what is the big clear deal about this only son?

16. Why does the Bible say that Jesus wanted to die on the cross, when the one on the cross was shouting "My

God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" according to Matthew 27:45 and Mark 15:33?

17. If God had wanted to save us, couldn't He have done that without sacrificing Jesus?

18. God is Just, and justice requires that nobody should be punished for the sins of others, nor should some people be saved by punishing other people. Doesn't the claim that God sacrificed Jesus to save us because He was Just, contradict the definition of justice?

19. People sacrifice things they have to get something they don't have when they can't have both. Christians say that "God SACRIFICED His only son to save us". We know that God is Almighty; to whom did He sacrifice Jesus?

20. A real sacrifice is when you can't get back what you have offered , so what would be the big deal about such a sacrifice if God could recover the same offering? (according to the Christians' terminology)?

21. If all the Christians are saved through Jesus and are going to Heaven no matter what they do, then the teachings of Jesus are irrelevant and the definition of good and bad are also rendered irrelevant. If this is not so, then do Christians who believe in Jesus yet do not follow his teachings nor repent go to Hell? **22.** How can Christians take deeds as irrelevant after becoming one when Jesus says in Matthew 12:36; "But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment. For by the words thou shalt be justified, and by the words thou shalt be condemned"? **23.** Christians say that people go to Heaven ONLY THROUGH JESUS, yet Paul says in 1 CORINTHIANS 7:8-16 that the unbelieving husband is acceptable to God because he is united with his wife and vice versa, and their pagan children are also acceptable to God. So people can go to heaven

without believing in Jesus according to this. **24.** How come the Bible says that ALL Israel is saved although they don't believe in Jesus? Doesn't that contradict the claim in the Bible that the only way to heaven is through Jesus? **25.** According to Christians, those who have not been baptized will go to Hell. So even the infants and babies go to Hell if not baptized, since they are born with an inherited original sin. Doesn't this contradict the definition of justice? Why would God punish people for sins they never committed?

HOLY SPIRIT:

The only place in the Bible where the Paraclete was called the Holy Spirit is in John 14:26 "But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you". What has the Holy Spirit brought or taught for the last 2000 years?

26. Christians say that the Paraclete means the Holy Spirit (John 14;26). Jesus said in John 16:7-8 "If I do not go away the Paraclete will not come to you". This could not mean the Holy spirit, since the Holy spirit was said to have been there before Jesus was even born as in Luke 1:41 "Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit". Here, the Holy spirit was also present during Jesus life time. So how could this fit with the condition that Jesus must go away so that the Holy spirit will come?

27. In John 16:7-8, it says: "But if go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world of sins and of righteousness and of Judgment". What do "he" and "him" refer here? Don't they refer to a man?

28. Does the Holy Spirit talk to good Christians and bad Christians as well? Is the Holy spirit with them all the time or just at certain times? When does it start visiting a person who wants to become a Christian?

29. How can you as a Christian tell if the Holy Spirit is

inside another Christian? How come many Christians fooled people by claiming that the Holy spirit was inside them only to be converted to another religion later on ?

30. Does the Holy Spirit dictate what Christians should do without choice or freedom at all or does it only guide them and they have the freedom to follow or not ?

31.If the Holy Spirit dictates what Christian should do, why do Christians commit sins and make mistakes ? How can you explain the conversion to other religions and atheism of many Christians? Are they told to do that by the Holy Spirit?

32. If the Holy Spirit guides Christians only, and they are free to do what they want, then how do we know that the writers of the Gospels didn't make mistakes in writing them?

33. If Christians believe that the Holy Spirit comes and talks to them everyday, why don't they ask the Holy Spirit about which version of the Bible to follow since there are too many versions floating around?

MISSION OF JESUS:

Without borrowing from other religions and systems, can Christianity provide people with a complete way of life? Since Christianity is limited to spiritual life and does not provide law, how can a society decide which laws are right or wrong?

34. Why do the Christians say that Jesus came with a universal mission when he said that he was sent to the Jews only? He said to the Canaanite woman who asked him to heal her daughter from demon-possession: "I was sent ONLY to the lost sheep of Israel" and also said: "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs", Matthew 15:21-28.

RESSURECTION:
If you read Matthew (28:1-10), Mark (16:1-20), Luke (24:1-12), and John (20: 1-18), you will find contradicting stories. They all agreed that the tomb was guarded for three days. However, they reported the discovery of the empty tomb differently. Matthew (28) and John (20) reported that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were the first to discover the tomb. Mark (16) reports that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were the first to discover the empty tomb. Mark (28) reports that there was an earthquake that removed the rock from over the tomb. He says that an angel caused it. The other gospels do not mention of an earthquake. Matthew and Mark say that only ONE man in white clothes was sitting on the tomb when the woman arrived, and that he was an angel. Luke says that TWO men in white clothes, who were angels, were sitting. Johns says that the two women did not meet anybody the first time they came to the tomb, but when they returned, they saw TWO people, ONE was an ANGEL, and the other was JESUS. Matthew reports that when the guards reported this to the chief priest, the chief priest paid them a large sum of money, telling them: "You have to say that his disciples came at night and stole his body." He claims that the soldiers took money and spread the story around and since then, the story had been circulating among the Jews until today (according to Matthew). The other gospels do not report of any such thing.

35. Which narration now is more authentic?

36.Why is the appearance of Jesus after the crucifixion taken as a proof of his resurrection when there is an explanation that he was not dead because someone else was crucified in his place when God saved Him?

37.How did Matthew know of the claimed agreement between the soldiers and the chief priest? Can’t

someone say that someone paid the women a large sum of money and told them to spread the word around that Jesus rose from the dead, with the same authenticity as that of the story of Matthew?

38. Why did they believe that man in the white clothes? Why did they believe he was an angel? John's narration is too strange, since he says that Mary did not recognize Jesus (one of the two) while talking to him, and she only recognized him when he called her by her name.

39.How does an empty tomb prove that Jesus was crucified ? Isn't it that God is capable of removing another man from the tomb, and of resurrecting him too?

40. The Gospels are believed to be the verbatim words of God, they are supposed to be dictated by the Holy Spirit to the Disciples who wrote them. If the source were the same, why shouldn't they correspond with each other in reporting such an important event?

41. How could Matthew, Mark, Luke and John be considered eyewitnesses of resurrection when the Bible implies that nobody at all saw Jesus coming out of the tomb?

BIBLE:

If the Christians consider the Old Testament as God's Word, why did they cancel the parts of the Old Testament that dealt with punishment (example: the punishment for adultery)?

42.Why doesn't Mark 16:9-20 exist in as many versions of the Bible while it exists as a footnote or between brackets in some other versions? Is a footnote in the Bible still considered as God's word, especially when it addresses an important feature like the Ascension?

43.Why does the Catholic Bible contain 73 books while the Protestant Bible has only 66? With both claiming to have the complete Word of God, which one should be believed and why?

44. Where do those new translations of the Bible keep coming from when the original Bible is not even available ? The Greek manuscripts which are translations themselves are not even similar with each other.

45. How can you take two gospels from writers who never met Jesus, like Mark and Luke?

46. Why is half of the New Testament written by a man who never even met Jesus in his lifetime? PAUL claimed with no proof that he had met Jesus while on his way from Jerusalem to Damascus. PAUL was the main enemy of Christianity. Isn't that reason enough to question the authenticity of what he wrote? Why do the Christians call those books of the Old Testament "God's Word" when the revisors of the RSV Bible say that some of the authors are UNKNOWN? They say that the author of SAMUEL is "UNKNOWN" and that of CHRONICLES is "UNKOWN, PROBABLY COLLECTED AND EDITED BY EZRA"!

CONTRADICTIONS:

47. Concerning the controversial issues in the Bible, how can Christians decide by two-thirds majority what is God's Word and what is not, as the prefaces of some Bibles say like that one of the RSV ?

48. Why does Luke in his gospel report the Ascension on Easter Day, and in the Acts, in which he is recognized as the author, FORTY days later?

49. The genealogy of Jesus is mentioned in Matthew and Luke only. Matthew listed 26 forefathers from Joseph to David while Luke enumerated 41 forefathers.

Only Joseph matches with Joseph in those two lists. Not a single other name matches! If these were inspired by God word by word, how could they be different? Some claim that one is for Mary and one is for Joseph, but where does it says Mary in those two Gospels?

50. If Moses wrote the first books of the Old Testament, how could Moses write his own obituary? Moses died in the fifth book at age 120 as mentioned in Deut. 34:5-10.

51. In the King James Version, why does it report SEVEN years of famine in II SAMUEL 24:13 while it reports THREE years of famine in I CHRONICLES 21:12? Why did they change both to THREE years in the New International Version and other versions?

52. Still In the same King James Version, why does it say that Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign in II CHRONICLES 21:12, while it says EIGHTEEN years in II KINGS 24:8? Why did thessey change in both to EIGHTEEN in the new Versions?

53. In all versions, why does it say that David slew the men of SEVEN HUNDRED chariots of the Syrians, and forty thousand HORSEMEN as evidenced in II Samuel 10:18 while its says SEVEN THOUSAND men which fought in chariots, and forty thousand FOOTMEN, in I CHRONICLES 19:18? **54.**In all versions, why does it report TWO thousand baths in I KINGS 7:26 while II CHRONICLES 4:5 reports THREE THOUSAND? **55.**In the King James version, why does it report that Solomon had FOUR THOUSAND stalls for horses in II CHRONICLES 9:25 while it accounts that Solomon had FORTY THOUSAND stalls of horses in 1 KINGS 4:26? Why did they change both to FOUR THOUSAND in the new versions? **56.**In GENESIS 1, God’s creation progresses from grass to trees to fowls, whales, cattle and creeping things and finally to man and woman. GENESIS 2, however, puts the creation of man before

cattle and fowl and woman subsequent to beast. How can this be explained?

QUR'AN AND CHRISTIANS

This section does not inquire or interrogate, but rather provides the reader with some of the Qur'anic verses that address the Christians in particular, and the people of the scripture in general. A great portion of the Qur'an pertains to or involves the Christians and the Jews and I decided to just choose verses that are related to the topic of this manuscript.

> "Lo! The likeness of Jesus with Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He created him of dust, then said unto him: Be, and he was." Al-Qur'an 3:59.
>
> - "Say: O People of the Scripture! Come to an agreement between us and you: that we shall worship none but Allah, and that we shall ascribe no partner unto Him, and that none of us shall take others for Lords besides Allah. And if they turn away, then say: Bear witness that we are they who have surrendered (unto him).
>
> "O People of the Scripture! Why will you argue about Abraham, when the Torah and the Gospel were revealed till after him? Have you then no sense?
>
> Abraham was not a Jew, nor yet a Christian; but he was an upright man who had surrendered (to Allah), and he was not of the idolaters.
>
> Lo! Those of mankind who have the best claim to Abraham are those who followed him, and his Prophet and those who believe (with him); and Allah is the Protector of the believers.
>
> A party of the People of the Scripture longs to make you go astray; and they make none to go astray except themselves, but they perceive not.

O People of the Scripture! Why disbelieve you in the revelations of Allah, when you (yourselves) bear witness to their truth?

O People of the Scriptures! Why confound you truth with falsehood and knowingly conceal the Truth? (Al-Qur'an 3: 64-71)

- And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him and in the hereafter, He will be one of the losers (Al-Qur'an 3:85).
- And because of their saying: We slew the Messiah Jesus, son of Mary, and Allah's messenger. They slew him not nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them, and Lo! Those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not for certain:

But Allah took him up unto Himself. Allah was ever Mighty, Wise. (Al-Qur'an 4:157-158).

- O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter ought concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and His word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him, so believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not "Three"! Cease! (it is) better for you! Allah is only One God. Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty that He should have a son. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is sufficient as defender.

The Messiah will never scorn to be a slave unto Allah, nor will the favored angels. Whosoever scorns His service and is proud, all such will assemble unto Him.

Then, as for those who believed and did good works, unto them will He give them their wages in full, adding unto them of His bounty; and as for

those who were scornful and proud, then He will punish with a painful doom." (Al-Qur'an 4:171-173).

- "And with those who say Lo! We are Christians, We made a covenant, but they forgot a part of that whereof they were admonished. Therefore We have stirred up enmity and hatred among them till the Day of Resurrection, when Allah will inform them of their handiwork.

O People of the Scripture! Now has our messenger come unto you, expounding unto you much of that which you used to hide in the Scripture, and forgiving much. Now has come unto light from Allah and plain scripture:

Whereby Allah guides him who seeks His good pleasure unto paths of peace, He brings them out of darkness unto light by His decree, and guides them unto a Straight Path.

They indeed have disbelieved who say: Lo! Allah is the messiah, son of Mary. Say: Who then can do aught against Allah if he had willed to destroy the Messiah son of Mary, and his mother and everyone on earth? Allah's is the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth and all that is between them. He creates what he wills. And Allah is able to do all things. (Al-Qur'an 5:14:17).

- "They surely disbelieve who say; Lo! Allah is the Messiah, son of Mary. The Messiah (himself) said: O children if Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and you Lord. Lo! Whosoever ascribes partners unto Allah, for him Allah has forbidden Paradise. His abode is the Fire. For evildoers ,there will be no helpers.

They surely disbelieve who say: Lo! Allah is the third of the three; when there is no God save the One God. If they desist not from so saying, a

painful doom will fall on those of them who disbelieve.

Will they not rather turn unto Allah and seek forgiveness of Him? For Allah is oft-forgiving, most merciful.

Say: Serve you in place of Allah that which possesses for you neither hurt nor use? Allah is the Hearer, the Knower.

Say: O People of the Scripture! Stress not in your religion other than the Truth, and follow not the vain desire of folks who erred of old and led many astray, and erred from a plain road." (Al-Qur'an 5:72-77)

- "And when Allah says: O Jesus, son of Mary: Did you say unto mankind: take me and my mother for two gods beside Allah?, he says: Be glorified! It was not mine to utter that to which I had no right. If I used to say it, then You Knew it, You know what is in my mind, and I know not what is in Your mind. Lo! You, only You, are the knower of things hidden.

I spoke unto them only that which You commanded me (saying); worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. I witness of them while I dwelt among them, and when You took me, You were the Watcher over them. You are witness over all things.

If You punish them, Lo! They are Your slaves, and if you forgive them (Lo! They are Your slaves). Lo! You, only you are the Mighty, the Wise.

Allah says: This is a day in which their truthfulness profits the truthful, for theirs are Gardens underneath which rivers flow, wherein they are secure forever, Allah taking pleasure in them and they in Him. That is the great triumph. (Al-Qur'an 5:116-119)

- "And the Jews say: ‘Uzair (Ezra) is the son of Allah’, and the Christians say: ‘The Messiah is the son of Allah’. That is their saying with their mouths. They imitate the saying of those who disbelieved of old. Allah fights against them. How perverse they are!

They have taken as Lord besides Allah their rabbis and their monks and the Messiah son of Mary, when they were bidden to worship only One God. There is no God save Him. Be He glorified from all that they ascribe as partners (unto him)!

Faint would they put out the light of Allah with their mouths, but Allah disdains (aught) save that He shall perfect His light, however much the disbelievers are averse.

He it is Who has sent His messenger with guidance and the Religion of Truth, to cause it to prevail over all religions, however much the idolaters may be averse.

O you who believe! Lo! many of the (Jewish) rabbis and the (Christian) monks devour the wealth of mankind wantonly and debar (people) from the way of Allah. They who hoard up gold and silver and spend it not in the way of Allah, unto them give tidings (O Muhammad) of a painful doom.

On the Day when it will (all) be heated in the fire of Hell, and their foreheads and their flanks and their backs will be branded therewith (and it will be said unto them): Here is that which you hoarded for yourselves. Now taste of what you used to hoard." (Al-Qur’an 9:30-35).

MUHAMMAD OR JESUS?

Christians claim that the prophecy in Deut. 18:18 refers

to Jesus and not Muhammad. The verse says: "I will raise them up a prophet from among **THEIR BRETHREN, LIKE UNTO THEE,** and I will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." The only reason they resort to such interpretation is that both Moses and Jesus were prophets. Even this one contradicts their claim that Jesus was God and not a Prophet. Many prophets of the Jews had the similarity with Moses. However, if we compare Muhammad to Moses, we will find that:

Muhammad was an Arab, and the Arabs are from Ishmael, son of Abraham, while Moses was a Jew, and the Jews are from Isaac, son of Abraham. Hence, the term THEIR BRETHREN refers to the children of the first son being brethren of the children of the other. This couldn’t apply to Jesus, since he was a Jew.

According to the Christians, Jesus went to Hell for three days while Moses did not. Therefore, Jesus is not like Moses. (In Islam, none of the three Prophets went to Hell)

Moses and Muhammad were born to fathers and mothers while Jesus was born to a mother alone.

Moses and Muhammad got married and had children, while Jesus did not marry at all.

Moses and Muhammad got problems and difficulties from their people initially, but were accepted by them at the end., whereas Jesus was rejected by his people at the start and is still rejected by the Jews until today. "He (Jesus) came unto his own, but his own received him not".(John 1:11)

Moses and Muhammad had power, besides being prophets. They both performed some capital punishments, for example, while Jesus had no power over his people. "My kingdom is not of this world", Jesus said in John 18:36 .

Moses and Muhammad brought new laws while Jesus

did not.

Moses was forced to emigrate in adulthood to Median while Muhammad was forced to emigrate at that stage in his life too, towards Madina . Whereas Jesus did not have such forced emigration in his adulthood .

Moses and Muhammad both died of natural deaths after which they were buried ,while the same could not be said of Jesus. He was neither killed nor crucified at all, according to the Qur’an and did not die a ‘natural’ death as could be affirmed by Christians who believe in Crucifixion.

FINAL QUESTIONS:

57. Why won’t you, Christian reader, come to hear and learn of the true religion of Jesus? **58.**Have you, as a Christian , learned of Islam and if so, was it from the true Muslims? **59.**As a Christian, do you agree that out of fairness and honesty you must investigate what Islam says about God, Jesus, including this life and the hereafter? **60.**Being a Christian, do you also believe that we must all stand accountable to our Creator and that the Creator is Perfect and Just? As a sincere believer in God, don’t you owe it upon yourself to find out the entire unadulterated truth regardless of the consequences?

We invite you to read, learn or ask information about Islam by visiting and making use of any available Mosques or Islamic Centers in your area or by paying a visit to our Web Site.

Terrorism verses' in the Bible

By: Mr. Ossama Abdallah

http://www.answering-christianity.com

This section is just an example of how we Muslims refuse many parts in the Bible. Let's look at what Allah said to the People of Israel in the Noble Qur'an:

"On that account: We ordained For the Children of Israel That if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: **and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people.** Then although there came To them Our Messengers With Clear Signs, yet, Even after that, many Of them continued to commit Excess in the land. (The Noble Qur'an, 5:32)"

In this Noble Verse we see how Allah Almighty in the Noble Qur'an honors the value of a human life. Whether the person is a believer or not, his life as an innocent person is still sacred and must not be unjustly violated.

This Noble Verse, although is mentioned in the Noble Qur'an, it was sent for the People of Israel many years before the Muslims presence. When we compare it to the Terrorism, brutal and unmerciful verses in the Bible, we see a clear contradiction. Let's look at an example in the Bible:

"**Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man,** but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man. (From the NIV Bible, Numbers 31:17)".

"And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, **thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:** But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine

enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. (From the NIV Bible, Deuteronomy 20:13-14)".

When a Muslim reads the above **Terrorism verses'** in the Bible and compare it to what Allah Almighty said to the People of Israel in the Noble Qur'an, he is left with a clear contradiction. How can Allah Almighty value the innocent life of the human being and say that if you save a single person it is like you saved the entire people, and at the same time he commands His followers to kill all of the innocent children and women who weren't guilty of anything in the Bible?.

Why should I as a Muslim trust the Bible, when in the introduction above the Bible itself clearly admits that it had been corrupted by man's alterations?

ANSWERING QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO THE MUSILMS

Ph.D. Mohammad El-Safty. ALAZHAR UNIVERSITY

All Thanks and praise be to Allah. Peace and blessings of Allah be upon the seal of prophets Muhammad, his family, companions and those who followed his path until the Day of Judgment.

A. Who is Allah?

Allah exists: This is a fact that can never be denied. No one- whoever he is- but realizes that there is a greater power that controls his actions. If some one can deny this before the people, he can never do during the times of crises. We can feel the existence of Allah without realizing His image. This is never weird since there are many things around us that we are sure of their existence without realizing their image. Your life, for instance, is a reference that your rouh (soul) in your body. However, you can not realize the image of the rouh with your senses. Also, you might suffer some pain in your body out of a wound that you can not see or describe its color, shape, or smell.

In the same logic, we feel the existence of Allah. This God is alive with neither beginning nor end, for if His life has a beginning or an end, it connotes the existence of a superior who affects Him causing life or death. Therefore, he does not deserve to be a god. This would ultimately lead us to a dark tunnel from which we can not break away.

This God is different from us; He has absolute perfection in a sense that we all resort to Him while he needs no one. If we could do without Him, or if he ever needed us, He is never a god.

This God, moreover, is a supreme being that holds qualities enabling Him to manage His realm since He is The Omniscient, The Most-Able, The All-Wise, The Annihilator, The Ever-Merciful, and The All-Forgiver.

We can not comprehend or even meditate upon His personal image through our understanding since this understanding is

made by Him while the made object can not encompass its maker. Nevertheless, Allah has informed us about His supreme being: He is All-Hearer, All-Seer, and His knowledge compasses all His creatures managing their lives. All His qualities (Exalted be He) are similar to ours only in name but are different in reality: "*The Creator of the heavens and the earth. He has made for you mates from* the blessings in Heavens *yourselves and for the cattle (also) mates. By this means He creates you (in the wombs). There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the All-Hearer, the All-Seer*."(Meaning of the Noble Qur'an.

B. How can we be close to Allah?

Being close to Allah is unproblematic and easy. It begins with a step forward from man. Then, it is continued by Allah Himself. The first step is that man liberates himself from illusions and imitation; he shall meditate on the earth to perceive how this universe is precisely managed through a system that tells of the mighty power behind it. This power is superior to his. Consequently, he is guided through his search that there is a god who manages this universe. The second step is through the divine messages in which a messenger from this god is sent with a message that demonstrates His might, His oneness and other commands with their rewards(i.e. Heavens or Hellfire).

C. What shall we do to gain Heavens?

In order to reach Heavens, we have to follow the straight path, which is the religion which you owe to Allah with its pillars (creed- laws-ethics). Such creed shall dwell within the human heart and shall be referred at by good deeds that shall be apparent in the behavior and ethics of man. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told us that a woman entered Hellfire although she was performing supererogatory fasting and prayers a lot. Her problem is that her religion was incomplete because of this defect in her moral aspect.

D. Have you accomplished all these duties?

A Muslim is just like any other person: he sometimes commits good deeds and sometimes wrong ones. Nonetheless, if the Muslim commits a sin, he turns to Allah to lead him to the straight path again. This is out of Allah's kindness over us that He opened the gates of repentance to resort to Him with no human intercession.

E. How can we reach Heavens (out of Allah's mercy and generosity)?

It would be a misconception if it was believed that entering Heavens shall be only through Allah's mercy and forgiveness? Entering Heavens is related to good deeds as stated in the Noble Qur'an "*Salamun 'Alaikum (peace be on you) enter you Paradise, because of (the good) which you used to do (in the world)*." However, the blessings in Heavens are not comparable to these good deeds. This is stated by the Prophet(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said" None shall enter Heavens thanks to his/her deeds" they said" neither you oh, Prophet of Allah?" He said" Neither me, except if Allah overwhelms me with His mercy."

F. How could Allah be just and merciful at the same time?(Jesus is the Sacrifice of God)

According to our understanding, Allah is just and merciful. This denotes that no one shall bear the mistakes of the other. That is why Islam denies the crucifixion of Jesus Christ since this contradicts with the Allah's justice and mercy. Amazingly, Christians claim that Jesus Christ was crucified to redeem them. They further claim that he is God and son of god. We wonder whether it is logical that God abandons his son to be crucified. And if Christ was crucified to redeem mankind, was this redemption for the people in his time, before, or after it? If so, why do Christians exert effort while Christ redeemed them through his own life?

A FINAL MESSAGE TO THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

I would like to address the missionaries, especially the foreigners who work in Muslim countries. Missionaries keep your hands off Muslims. It would be better for you to take your belongings and paraphernalia and go back home. Your ideas are not marketable and are unfit for distribution among others, what has happened to Christianity in terms of its beliefs, ethics and overall appearance. There is almost left nothing left of it except its name.

It is only proper for the one whose house has collapsed to try to rebuild it before going out into the world and inviting it – as you claim – to salvation and faith.

It is only proper for you that you agree on one Christian creed based on the belief in one God, Who revealed to Moses in His final revelation, saying of Himself, " … I live forever."[1]

Jesus commanded you to follow the Law of Moses as he did.

This was recorded by the authors of the Gospels. There is no way to remove the differences among your sects and denominations unless you adopt the following beliefs:

You must believe in one God, the Ever-Living, Who dies not. Further, you must stop mixing God with Jesus, as some of your own scholars advise and as mentioned in the beginning of this discourse. Only then can Christianity be considered a faith that believers in one God. But if you stay as you are, declaring each other to be disbelievers and cursing one another for years to come, your efforts among Muslims to take them away from worshipping the one and only Allah, and to invite them to adopt different rituals mixed with the pure Christianity of Jesus Christ (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), are all in vain.

As a matter of fact, this reminds me of what Jesus ((may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said in the Bible. He said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."[2]

Your preaching Christianity among Muslims reminds me of the story of a segment of Pharaoh's people and the believers among them who concealed his belief (in one God). He silenced all of them with his strong argument. He said:

"My people! How (strange) it is foe me to call you Salvation while you can call me to the Fire! You do call upon me to blaspheme against Allah, and to join with Him partners of whom I have no knowledge; and I call you to the

Exalted in Power, Who forgives again and again! Without doubt you do call me to one who is not fit to be called to, whether in this world, or in the hereafter. Our return will be to Allah; and the transgressors will be companions of the Fire! Soon will you remember what I say to you (now). My (own) affair I commit to Allah : for Allah (ever) watches over His Servants." Then Allah saved him from (every) evil that they plotted (against him).

But the burnt of the penalty encompassed on all sides the people of the Pharaoh. [3]

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1 Deuteronomy 32:40
2 Mathew 23:15
3 Qur'an 40:41-45

Preachers and missionaries, your plans to Christianize Muslims have been exposed, and your ways of preaching among them are public knowledge. If enslavement of the body is a heinous sin, then the enslavement of the spirit is even more hateful and evil. You practice the slavery of the spirit when you materially help the Muslims poor – giving out a handful of rice as you do in Indonesia. All this is possible only on the condition that they accept Christianity, which you force upon them. My God! By doing this, you've usurped the most basic human right – the freedom to make a choice! What kind of slavery can be more cruel than this? Such machinations drove some of you to say more than seventy years ago when the colonialists had subjugated the entire Muslim world, that missionary organization must Christianize all Muslims within a period of twenty five years.

We thank God that three times that estimated period has passed and Islam is still here, strong and firm. As a matter of fact, recent years has witnessed, by the grace of Allah alone, many Europeans and Americans embracing Islam with full conviction and satisfaction. This happened once they interacted with the Muslim world and learned of Islam the truth that you, missionaries, were so keen to distort.

Yes, your sole concern was, as George Bernard Shaw observed, to train Christians to hate Muhammad (may Allah's peace and blessing be upon him), the Qur'an and Islam.

You took advantage of any mistake or foolish act by certain individuals or groups in the Muslim world to announce that that was Islam, thought you knew very well how wrong your statements were. You knew that Islam is one thing and the Muslims, their behavior and their current predicament are another thing which has nothing to do with Islam.

You surely know that there was an Islamic civilization based on the Qur'an, the Prophet's teachings, and the spirit of Islam, which calls for knowledge, freedom of thought, and a study of the universe. Schools and teaching circles were widespread. Scholars in diverse fields of knowledge reached the top of their fields, such as medicine, astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry and pharmacology.

The addition of the zero to mathematics and the discovery of logarithms – where the word logarithm stills refers to its Islamic source, Al-khwarizmi – are still the greatest advance in the world of mathematics. On the other hand, modern Western civilization could never prospered until it rid itself of the authority of the Church, which burned scholars like Bruno, for no other reason but that he stated that the Earth was spherical. Then it adopted the knowledge of the Muslims and embraced their methodology in research and experiments until it gave rise to the European Renaissance.

I don't have to remind you that white Islamic civilization was shining at the time of Harun Ar-Rashid, Charlemagne, his contemporary, the Master of Europe, was busy Christianizing the pagans of Europe by the use of the sword. It is quite enough here to mention that, according to your official documents, Charlemagne in one day killed 4500 pagans who refused to be Christianized and baptized. The agreements between him and them were either Christianization or death.

After Charlemagne, the Church withdrew some of its Crusaders from Palestine – during the time of Crusades – to help Christianize the people of the Baltic Sea areas by use of the sword. They were to continue their mission there for thirty years. In return, they were to receive a certain compensation determined by the Church. The compensation of the Church turned out to be seizure of the lands of the pagans – in return for giving them Christianity.

Finally, I find no better way to conclude my talk but to remind those among you who have heavily concentrated on destroying the Muslim creed by taking the Muslims away from the light of Monotheism and into the darkness of polytheism, of what the Qur'an says about them. It says:

The Unbelievers spend their wealth to hinder (man) from the path of Allah, and so will they continue to spend; but in the end they will have (only) regrets and sighs; at length they will be overcome: and the Unbelievers will be gathered together to Hell in order that God may separate the impure from the pure, put the impure one on another, heap them together, and cast them into Hell. They will be the ones to have lost.

And let me repeat, preachers and missionaries, keep your hands off the Muslims. He whose house is made of glass should not throw stones at

others, otherwise the prediction of Jesus mentioned in the Bible will come true. He said:

> **You surely hear but do not comprehend. You see but you do not contemplate. This is because the hearts of the people have become hard, their hearing has become poor and they have shut their eyes so that they do not have to see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts. Then they will come back and I shall cure them.**

We end our presentation with the best of all words: "Glory to your Lord, the Lord of Honor and Power! (He is free) from what they ascribe (to Him)! And peace on the messengers and Praise to Allah, the Lord Cherisher of the Worlds.

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